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PC.DEL/1188/22  
11 August 2022

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1385th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 August 2022

### **On the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan**

The European Union would like to express its deep concern over the serious incidents that occurred last week between Armenia and Azerbaijan, particularly in the area of the Laçın corridor and in different places along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh, and that have unfortunately resulted in casualties.

In calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the European Union stresses the importance of doing everything possible to avoid an escalation and of honouring fully the commitments undertaken as part of the ceasefire arrangements of 9 November 2020.

The first of these commitments concerns observance of the ceasefire. The tripartite statement of 9 November also provides for the parties to “remain at their current positions”. Given that Azerbaijan claimed, in its note verbale of 4 August 2022, to have occupied new positions on the “high grounds along the Karabakh range”, the European Union requests the signatories to the statement to explain what these developments imply, not least in terms of observance of the ceasefire and the situation along the line of contact.

With regard to the opening of a new route along the Laçın corridor, as provided for by the statement of 9 November 2020, the European Union trusts that this can be carried out in accordance with modalities and a schedule agreed on by the parties.

The European Union will continue to support and contribute to efforts aimed at promoting dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It will continue to co-operate closely in this work with the OSCE. The European Union remains determined to help in overcoming tensions and to pursue its commitment to lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.