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Delegation**

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United Kingdom Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 582
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EU Statement: OSCE Scales of Contribution

The European Union would like to welcome the Decision we have just taken on revision of the Scales of contribution for the period 2005-07. We should also like to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of the Bulgarian and Slovenian Chairmanships to build a consensus on this issue.

This is an excellent outcome, not only for the participating States, but also for the OSCE and all its employees. Agreement on Scales will allow the Organisation to move ahead with its valuable work on the basis of financial stability. We look forward to adopting the 2006 Unified Budget in a similar spirit of co-operation.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia¹, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

¹ Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process