

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 794
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EU statement in response to the presentation of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Audit Committee to the Permanent Council 10th February 2010

The European Union welcomes the members of the Audit Committee and its chairman, Mr. Paul Ernst, to this meeting of the Permanent Council.

We thank the Committee for its very useful report. The EU highly values the function of the Audit Committee in assessing the internal and external controls in the OSCE and thanks the Secretariat for facilitating the Committee's work. We welcome the Secretariat's action in having followed-up on the recommendations made by the Committee in December 2008 and encourage the Secretariat to follow-up on the new recommendations contained in the Audit Committee's latest annual report.

First of all, the EU concurs with the Committee in giving high priority to the conclusion of the revision of the Financial Regulations in order to provide clarity of accountability for financial and administrative matters. The EU believes it should be possible for the Participating States to agree on a set of clear regulations that will not only be

acceptable to all of us, but that will also allow the Organization to function effectively and transparently.

On the positive side, the EU notes with satisfaction the “significant improvements” noted in the quality of activities of the Office of Internal Oversight, and expresses its full support for the Office, whose importance and independence in a system of diffuse governance like the OSCE’s cannot be overlooked. We also welcome the development of a risk-management policy across the whole Organization, as well as the development and wide-spread use of the Integrated Resource Management Application.

In conclusion, we would like to pay tribute to the work of the Committee and its contribution to strengthening the Organization’s Control mechanisms.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA y GEORGIA se alinean con esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación