



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 938
Vienna, 24 January 2013**

**EU statement on events related to the removal of a
monument in Presevo**

The European Union regrets that ongoing efforts to arrive at a negotiated solution were interrupted by the Serbian authorities' removal of the unauthorised monument erected in Presevo and that no compromise solution has been reached so far on this issue by the parties involved.

We call on all parties in the region to show restraint and in this context we join others in condemning the attacks by individuals on Serbian Orthodox sites in Kosovo that followed the removal of the monument in Presevo.

The EU believes the issue of this monument should be dealt with by the central and local authorities in Serbia, through dialogue with local communities, respecting the Serbian law and avoiding unnecessary tensions. We call on all sides to restore dialogue, avoid further confrontation, rebuild confidence and tackle the important issues at stake, notably the socio-economic development of southern Serbia and the improvement of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We support the efforts of the OSCE Mission to Serbia to assist in finding a compromise solution.