

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Estonia**

On 8 December the Estonian Parliament adopted amendments to the citizenship law which will provide for the granting of citizenship by simplified procedure to stateless children born in Estonia after 26 February 1992.

The European Union welcomes this farsighted decision which constitutes an important step towards further integration of all inhabitants of Estonia. All children covered by this legislation will thus be able to acquire citizenship and become fully integrated members of Estonian society.

The European Union acknowledges that Estonia has now fulfilled the OSCE recommendations with regard to citizenship.

The vote of the Estonian Parliament reflects a forward-looking approach which promotes the stability of Estonian society and is consistent with the principles and aims of the European Union. The European Union notes the fact that this decision is fully in accordance with the political priorities enumerated in the Accession Partnership.

The European Union will continue to support the integration of non-Estonians into Estonian society.

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