

**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 the meeting between the Presidents of Armenia**  
**and Azerbaijan in Geneva**

The EU welcomes news of the latest meeting of Presidents Aliev and Kocharian, and encourages them to intensify their dialogue with a view to making early progress towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict. A global and lasting settlement is to be achieved through negotiations between all the parties involved in the framework of the OSCE Minsk process.

As it made clear at the 22 June meeting in Luxembourg, the EU views regional cooperation as an essential part of the political and economic development of the region and its integration into the world community; the absence of regional cooperation renders EU and other assistance less effective; the EU calls on the two countries to seek to overcome the obstacles to cooperation between them.

The EU stands ready to support and help sustain the peace which the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan need and deserve, and applauds every effort of the two Presidents and their Governments to achieve it.