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ENGLISH only

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The Netherlands Presidency of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 524
9 September 2004**

**Condolences by the EU
on the tragedy in the city of Beslan,
Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Russian Federation**

Mr. Chairman,

The horrifying events in the city of Beslan, North Ossetia-Alania, have deeply shocked the world and fill our hearts and minds with outrage and great sorrow. As the EU has stated before, there can be no legitimisation of the killing and maiming of civilians, especially children. The EU wishes to express its sincere condolences to the relatives of the victims, to the Russian people and to the Government of the Russian Federation. Our citizens mourn with them.

The EU fully and unconditionally condemns the terrorist attack in the city of Beslan and all forms of terrorism. The EU confirms its previous commitments on combating and preventing terrorism. The EU remains determined to work together with the Russian Federation in the common fight against terrorism through enhanced international cooperation.

The Candidate Countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia¹ align themselves with this statement

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