



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the declaration of independence by the Montenegrin Parliament, issued on 3 June 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Gerhard **Pfanzelter**  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

**Statement on the declaration of independence by the Montenegrin Parliament, issued on 3 June 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**

The European Union takes note that, on 3 June 2006, the Parliament of Montenegro has passed a declaration on the independence of the Republic of Montenegro, in conformity with article 60 of the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The declaration follows certification of the result of the referendum on the independence of Montenegro, as announced by the Republic Referendum Commission on 31 May.

The European Union recalls that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has confirmed that the referendum was conducted in line with OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and other international standards for democratic electoral processes. The European Union thanks Javier Solana, High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, and his personal representative, Miroslav Lajcak, for their contributions to facilitate this process.

The European Union reiterates that it will fully respect the decision of the people of Montenegro. In consideration of the appropriate next steps, member States have agreed to address the matter further at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 12 June 2006.

The European Union calls on Belgrade and Podgorica to pursue a direct and constructive dialogue on their future relations. The European Union stands ready to support that dialogue.

At the same time, the European Union calls on the Montenegrin government and opposition, in full respect of the decision of the people of Montenegro, to engage in a dialogue and to cooperate constructively in the implementation of political, social and economic reforms.

The European Union reconfirms the European perspective of the Western Balkans on the basis of the stabilization and association process.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,\* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.