Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
General Assembly - 12 December 2014

Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
for the Decade 2014-2024

Mr Chairman,

The EU and its Members States are pleased to join consensus on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024.

We want to thank all delegates for their constructive engagement throughout out the negotiations, as well as the OHRLLS for its support. We want to thank specifically his excellencies Dr. Khiane Phansourivong from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Per Thöresson from Sweden for their leadership. We also want to express our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Austria for hosting the Conference, and for providing all the necessary support.

With LLDCs in the lead, we are determined to support them in core policy areas aimed at addressing the serious constraints on their sustainable development due to remoteness, lack of territorial access to the sea and limited access to world markets. This means notably concentrating our efforts in the areas of trade facilitation, transit, transport infrastructure and regional integration and cooperation. Our current and future cooperation with LLDCs, both bilateral and regional, is geared towards these areas to ensure that our partnership translates into transformational policies and programs on the ground.

We were encouraged by the broad participation of so many stakeholders during the Vienna Conference, notably the private sector. Private sector contribution will be fundamental and the creation of an enabling environment for increasing the private sector investment and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth remains critical.

We look forward to working with the LLDCs, the UN system and all partners in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Thank you.