Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The evolution of information and communication technologies and the Internet as drivers of innovation and economic growth as well as their role in furthering people’s right to freedom of expression and access to information continue to present new opportunities for the international community as we seek to build an inclusive Information Society and achieve the internationally agreed development goals.

This year we have the task of establishing the modalities for the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society since 2005.

We would like to express our support for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development's (CSTD) overall coordination of the review and advocate a linkage between the outcomes of the WSIS+10 process and the post-2015 development agenda. We support a review process which ensures an appropriate balance of responsibilities in the process between the UN agencies facilitating WSIS Action Lines, at the end of which the General Assembly holds a final WSIS+10 review meeting in early 2015 to endorse the recommendations agreed in the multi-stakeholder UN agencies’ review processes and those agreed by the CSTD on Enhanced Cooperation. We look forward to this meeting submitting final recommendations to the General Assembly on the way forward in ensuring that the potential of ICT’s in promoting economic growth and development is fully utilised.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
We also expect these recommendations to provide a realistic assessment of achievements and results so far.

We also appreciate the work and contributions of the UN agency action line facilitators since 2005 and their reports to the WSIS+10 review on implementation of the WSIS recommendations. Likewise, we support the distributed process of the stakeholder consultations convened by UNESCO in April and currently by the ITU with its WSIS+10 Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) in preparation for the High Level Event in April 2014, and likewise the ongoing work of the CSTD working group on Enhanced Cooperation.

Mr. President,

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance, ensuring accountability, transparency and independence from special interests, and our support for the Internet Governance Forum. We believe the IGF has continued to improve and build on success in bringing together representatives of business, civil society, governments, international organisations, parliamentarians, the technical community and academic experts, to exchange views and best practice on all issues relating to the development of the Internet, especially its contribution to the global economy, and freedom of expression and access to information. We believe the IGF has benefitted from the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on IGF improvements.

We therefore support the renewal of the IGF mandate in 2015 for a further 5 years, with no substantial changes.

Mr. President,

People's access to the Internet is an indispensable platform for economic growth, freedom of expression, for information and development. We welcome the forthcoming review and the continued international focus on this important issue as a key part of the overall UN development agenda.

Thank you.