



EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 1 November 2012
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PRESSE 460

**Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the
European Union on the alignment of certain third countries
with Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP concerning restrictive
measures against Belarus**

On 15 October 2012, the Council adopted Decision 2012/642/CFSP¹.

Noting that the situation as regards democracy, human rights and rule of law in Belarus has not improved, and on the basis of an annual review, Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP extends the restrictive measures against Belarus until 31 October 2013.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland⁺ and Serbia*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

They will ensure that their national policies conform to this Council Decision.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

¹ OJ L 285/1, 17.10.2012, p. 17.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

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