



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on
Chile's ratification of the Rome Statute**

On behalf of the European Union, the Presidency would like to offer its warm congratulations to Chile on its ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 29 June 2009.

Chile's accession, bringing the number of ICC states parties to 109, marks a further significant step forward in the international community's efforts to combat impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The European Union is convinced that Chile will make a highly valuable contribution to the Court's work and we hope that Chile's accession will encourage other countries to consider ratifying the Statute.

Without universal participation of all States, the Court will not be able to fulfil its role as a key instrument in combating impunity when the most serious crimes are committed and national courts are unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute. The ICC also has a significant role to play in preventing and deterring these crimes.

P R E S S

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On this occasion, the EU recalls its commitment to the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute and calls upon States which have not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute in due course.

The Candidate Country Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

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