Joint statement by the Chair of the Delegation for relations with the South Caucasus, MEP Marina KALJURAND, the European Parliament’s Standing Rapporteur on Armenia, MEP Andrey KOVATCHEV, and the European Parliament’s Standing Rapporteur on Azerbaijan, MEP Željana ZOVKO,

on the Orders of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 in the cases between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Brussels, 9 December 2021 - " We welcome the Orders of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 indicating provisional measures in the cases between Armenia and Azerbaijan concerning the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We recall that the Court has indicated provisional measures ordering Azerbaijan to protect from violence and bodily harm all persons captured in relation to the 2020 conflict who remain in detention, and ensure their security and equality before the law, as well as to take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin, and to prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration affecting Armenian cultural heritage.

We also recall that the Court has indicated provisional measures ordering Armenia to take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred, including by organisations and private persons in its territory, targeted at persons of Azerbaijani national or ethnic origin. It has also ordered both parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

These are important decisions with binding effect that need to be fully implemented. Furthermore, we continue urging the immediate release of all remaining prisoners by Azerbaijan, as well as the exchange of all available information on minefields in order to proceed with effective demining. In this respect, we welcome the recent release of 10 Armenian prisoners and the handing over of mine maps.

As mentioned in our previous statements, it is crucial that Armenia and Azerbaijan take immediate and effective steps to de-escalate the situation and cease any inflammatory rhetoric in order to start building mutual trust, foster reconciliation and resume negotiations on the settlement of the conflict. In this respect, we look forward to a constructive meeting between the two countries' political leaders in the side-lines of the Eastern Partnership Summit scheduled on 15 December 2021.
Finally, we reiterate once again the EU’s commitment to support confidence-building measures and substantive negotiations, in particular on a lasting conflict settlement and the future status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region within the process led by Minsk Group Co-Chairs."

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