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To all MEPs signatory to the letter on the “International support for the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh”

Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 11 November expressing concern about the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The EU welcomes the cessation of hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh on 10 November. The ceasefire will prevent the further loss of life, but efforts are still needed for a negotiated, comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the conflict, including on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The EU reiterates its full support to the established format of the OSCE Minsk Group, led by its Co-Chairs, to pursue this objective.

The protection of civilian lives during the conflict is an obligation under international humanitarian law, the EU consistently reminded the sides to the conflict about their responsibilities. Any war crimes that might have been committed should be investigated. The EU has repeatedly warned regional actors to avoid any external interference escalating violence and now calls for the full and prompt withdrawal of all foreign fighters from the region.

The EU underlines the importance of guaranteeing humanitarian access to the region and the possibility for displaced persons to return home in safety and with dignity. In the current post-conflict situation, the EU is providing critical assistance to those most affected by the conflict in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

I would like to confirm to you that the EU continues to engage with all parties to ensure de-escalation of the situation and stands ready to effectively contribute in the shaping of a durable and comprehensive settlement of the conflict, including where possible through support for stabilisation, post conflict rehabilitation and confidence building measures.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles