



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 835  
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### **EU statement on violence against journalists in the Russian Federation**

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The European Union thanks the Russian delegation for its statement and the detailed information provided. The EU expresses its deep concern at the recent brutal attacks on journalists Oleg Kashin in Moscow and Anatoly Adamchuk in Zhukovsky. We hope that the journalists will recover from the injuries inflicted on them by their assailants. Our sympathies are with the victims, their families and their colleagues.

We welcome the fact that President Medvedev has instructed the Prosecutor General's Office and the Interior Ministry to pay special attention to the investigation of the attack on Oleg Kashin. We also welcome the media coverage and public debate which these cases have prompted in Russia, highlighting the need to take urgent action to address the safety of journalists.

The European Union remains concerned that these grave incidents add to a worrying trend of frequent violence against journalists in the Russian Federation, as underlined by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in her two press releases issued on 8 November 2010.

We are also concerned that the Russian law enforcement system has not yet been able to bring the perpetrators and those responsible for the attacks and

murders of journalists to justice. As the EU has previously stated, as long as these crimes remain unsolved, a climate of impunity will continue to prevail.

Assaults on journalists pose a particular threat to democracy and the rule of law and constitute a serious violation of human rights. We expect the Russian authorities to promptly and thoroughly investigate not only these recent attacks, but also all other similar unsolved cases. It is essential to bring the perpetrators and those responsible for the attacks and murders of journalists to justice. In this context, we are encouraged by the recent announcement by the Russian authorities that several cases of murdered journalists would be reopened and further investigated.

Finally, the EU would like to express its support to the Representative on Freedom of the Media and ask her to continue following developments in Russia.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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