

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019**

EU Right of Reply – Working Session 2

Mr. Moderator,

In reply to some remarks that have been made in this room during this session, we would like to reiterate our well known position on the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. We did not, do not and will not recognise it.

We therefore regret the attempts by some participants of this meeting to use a legitimate opportunity for discussion and dialogue to make points relating to a situation that is in contradiction with Helsinki principles.

We regret the attempts to whitewash the human rights situation in Crimea. They have not succeeded. We remain deeply concerned about the dire situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol since its illegal annexation by Russia. Residents of the peninsula face systematic restrictions of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression.

In reply to the question addressed to us on the definition of journalism, we want to state that journalism is a function shared by a wide range of actors. We believe that protection of journalists should not be limited to those formally recognised as journalists, but should cover others, including community media workers and citizen journalists and others who may be using new media as a means of reaching their audiences, as stated in the *UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity*.

Regarding Anar Mammadov, editor in an online platform, we would like to refer to the statement of the OSCE Representative on Media Freedom from 22 of February for more details. We join the Representative in his calls towards the authorities in Azerbaijan.

Thank you.