

# Prohlášení

## Statement

## Déclaration

Vienna 7 May 2009

### **Permanent Council No.760**

### **EU Statement on freedom of media in Armenia**

The EU is concerned about the brutal attack against Arghisti Kiviryan, co-ordinator of the Armenia Today information portal, on 30 April. This is not the first incidence of violence against a journalist in Armenia. The EU recalls recent cases of violence against Lusine Barseghyan from the opposition newspaper Haykakan Zhamanak; Hrach Melkumyan, the acting Chief of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Yerevan bureau; and Edik Baghdasaryan, the Chairman of the Investigative Journalists' Association. The EU concurs with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media that the lack of prosecutions in cases such as these creates a climate of impunity for the perpetrators and can provoke other cases of violence against media workers.

It is therefore important that those responsible for all these attacks are identified and brought to justice. In this regard, the EU welcomes the comments by President Sargsyan's press secretary that finding those responsible for the attack on Arghisti Kiviryan is the best way of preventing further attacks in the future, and by the Armenian Ombudsman condemning all cases of violence against journalists and calling upon the police to take all necessary measures in order to identify those responsible for the attack on Arghisti Kiviryan. The EU would like to request the OSCE office in Yerevan to follow up on this issue.

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

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