



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

HDIM.DEL/274/07
28 September 2007

PORTUGAL

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 24th September – 5th October 2007

Statement of Portugal on the participation of the Russian Chechen Friendship Society in the OSCE 2007 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Mr. Moderator

As you know, the EU remains firmly committed to NGO participation in OSCE events along the existing modalities as set out in the Helsinki 1992 Document.

I would like to take this opportunity to refer to the statement of the EU on the Closure of the Russian Chechen Friendship Society delivered in the 648th Permanent Council on the 1st of February, and I quote:

“The Russian Chechen Friendship Society, laureate of the 2004 Recognition Award of the International Helsinki Federation, was one of the few remaining organizations in Russia reporting on human rights conditions in Chechnya and the Northern Caucasus. The EU has previously raised the harassment of this non-governmental organisation, inter alia in the context of the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, with whom the Russian Chechen Friendship Society had co-operated closely.” *End of quote.*

Portugal regrets that the representative of the Russian Federation threatened to walk out when the Russian Chechen Friendship Society took the floor, which in fact occurred. We are convinced that it is essential to maintain a free and open dialogue between NGOs and participating States of the OSCE.