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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 962
Vienna, 25 July 2013**

**EU statement on the case of Sergey Magnitsky and on the
sentencing of Alexey Navalny and Pyotr Ofitserov**

Two weeks ago, the OSCE SHDM focused on the importance of the rule of law in the promotion and protection of human rights. We are concerned that recent developments in some parts of the OSCE area call into question the implementation of relevant commitments.

In this regard, the European Union would like to draw the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council to the 12 July Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the case of Sergey Magnitsky:

“The High Representative is concerned at the guilty verdict issued by the Tverskoi court in Moscow against Sergey Magnitsky and William Browder.

Mr Magnitsky has been posthumously declared a criminal on the basis of unfair procedures and unconvincing evidence, while neither the corruption scandal he helped to uncover nor the circumstances of his death have been clarified.

The High Representative remains concerned about the premature closure of the investigation into Mr Magnitsky’s death last March, in spite of compelling evidence of wrongdoing.”

The European Union would also like to draw the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council to the 18 July Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the sentencing of Alexey Navalny and Pyotr Ofitserov:

“The High Representative is concerned about the guilty verdict and the prison sentences handed down today by the Kirov Court against Alexey Navalny, member of the Russian opposition coordination council and anti-corruption campaigner, and his co-defendant Pyotr Ofitserov. The charges against them have not been substantiated during the trial.

Civil society has a vital role to play in exposing wrongdoing and defending human rights, and it should not be stifled.

This outcome, given the procedural shortcomings, raises serious questions as to the state of the rule of law in Russia. The High Representative hopes that their sentences will be reconsidered in the appeal process.”

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA align themselves with this statement.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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