



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE

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Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

## Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

### **685<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council**

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2007**

### Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the death of Alisher Saipov, a Kyrgyz journalist and Human Rights Defender of Uzbek origin, in Kyrgyzstan

The European Union would like to draw the attention of participating States to the following Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the death of Alisher Saipov, a Kyrgyz journalist and Human Rights Defender of Uzbek origin, in Kyrgyzstan, issued on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007. The Declaration reads as follows:

« The EU strongly condemns the murder of Alisher Saipov, the Kyrgyz journalist and Human Rights Defender of Uzbek origin, in Kyrgyzstan, on October 24.

The EU firmly believes in the importance of freedom of expression, of the media and the respect of Human Rights in the development of a democratic and pluralistic society.

The EU deplors Mr Saipov's death and praises his work, which provided an important contribution to the promotion of human rights. The EU urges the Kyrgyz authorities to hold an immediate and thorough investigation into the death of Mr Saipov, arrest the perpetrators of this act and bring them to justice, as publicly assured by President Bakiyev on 25 October.

The EU extends its sincere condolences to Mr Saipov's family at this most difficult time. » *end of quote*

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

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