

Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

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EU Statement on Freedom of the Media in Kazakhstan

The EU has learned with concern of the arrest of the editor of the weekly Alma-Ata Info, Mr Ramazan Yesergepov, who has been charged with disclosing state secrets.

The EU would like to echo the call by the OSCE Representative of Freedom of the Media Mr. Haraszti for the release of this journalist. The EU acknowledges that the unauthorised disclosure of classified information can be a cause of friction between authorities and the media. However, there is a distinction to be made between those, who have a duty to protect official information including state secrets, and media workers. The EU fully agrees with the Representative's recommendation that breach of secrecy by the latter should be de-criminalised. This would contribute to protect the freedom to engage in journalism which plays an important role in fostering open, transparent and accountable democracies.

The EU calls on Kazakhstan to fulfill its OSCE commitments and, in this regard, we would encourage it to continue to work with Mr. Haraszti and his Office in reforming relevant legislation.

The candidate countries 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 align themselves with this statement.

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