



Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**OSCE High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism, 13th - 14th September,
2007**

Statement of the European Union on the Suspension of
the participation of the Russian Chechen Friendship
Society in the OSCE High-Level Meeting on Victims of
Terrorism

14th September 2007

The EU remains firmly committed to NGO participation in OSCE events, such as the High-Level meeting on Victims of Terrorism, 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 Politovskaya, with whom the Russian Chechen Friendship Society had co-operated closely.” *End of quote.*

Thank you Mr. Chairman.