



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1055
Vienna, 28 May 2015**

**EU Statement on a new Russian law on so-called
undesirable NGOs**

The new law on so-called undesirable non-governmental organisations enacted by the Russian president on Saturday 23 May is a worrying step in a series of restrictions on civil society, independent media and political opposition.

This law will have a further negative impact on the work and the space of civil society in Russia and on a wide array of democratic rights. It will directly and unduly restrict freedom of association, as guaranteed by the international covenant on civil and political rights and it will restrict further freedom of opinion and expression including freedom of media, as pointed out by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on 20 May. It also runs counter to our Copenhagen commitments on encouraging and facilitating cooperative endeavours and direct contacts between individuals, groups and organisations.

The EU notes the negative opinion of the Russian Presidential Council on Human Rights during the preparation of the legislation.

We again call on the Russian Federation to ensure that its legislation and legal practice conforms with international standards and commitments including those from the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document. We urge the Russian Federation to take due account of the ODIHR/Venice Commission joint guidelines when drafting legislation that pertains to the right to freedom of association. We will closely follow developments related to the implementation of this law.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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