



Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 808
Vienna, 6 May 2010**

EU statement on the case against human rights defender Evgeniy Zhovtis

As indicated at last week's meeting of the Permanent Council, the EU would like to return to the case of Kazakh human rights defender Evgeniy Zhovtis. The EU recalls its strong concern with procedural violations during the trial and appeals procedures conducted last year, expressed inter alia in statements to the Permanent Council on September 10, October 22 and December 17, 2009.

The EU continues to attach strong importance to Mr. Zhovtis' right to a fair trial being upheld in line with Kazakhstan's national legislation as well as international commitments and obligations, which should carry particular weight during Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship this year.

The EU thanks the delegation of Kazakhstan for the information provided to the Permanent Council last week on the decision of the Supreme Court not to initiate review proceedings in the case.

The EU regrets that procedural violations of the lower courts have not yet been reviewed and remedied and hopes that this will proceed in the near future. The EU has noted that Mr. Zhovtis still has the option of personal appeals to the Supreme Court or the Office of the Prosecutor General. We will continue to follow closely further developments in the case in the light of the significance we place on our shared commitments, including as regards due process, fair trial and other human rights.

Los países candidatos CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.