



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement on the arrest of Natiq Jafarli

The European Union would like to raise its concern over the arrest of Natiq Jafarli, the Executive Secretary of the REAL party in Azerbaijan. Mr Jafarli was arrested in August just weeks ahead of the referendum on constitutional amendments that his party opposes and campaigns against. His arrest and placement into pre-trial detention of four months on questionable charges of illegal entrepreneurship and the abuse of official power come on top of worrying reports of additional arrests of people involved in campaigning.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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