



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1164
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EU Statement on the situation of LGBTI persons in Russia

The European Union continues to follow closely the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Chechnya. We have been monitoring the status of numerous reports of mass arrests, disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of men in Chechnya due to their actual or alleged sexual orientation.

We take note of the comment by the Russian High Commissioner for Human Rights, Tatiana Moskalkova, that she sees grounds to open a criminal investigation and provide state protection in the case of Mr. Maxim Lapunov, who has recently come forward to publicly share his account of torture and ill-treatment by Chechen security officials.

However, the investigation should not end there. We again urge the authorities of the Russian Federation to conduct prompt, effective and thorough investigations into all the reports of mass arrests, disappearances, torture and ill-treatment so that anyone responsible of or complicit in such crimes is brought to justice.

We also once again invite the Russian Federation to keep us informed of the status of the investigations and to ensure the safety of any other victims that may come forward.

As a conclusion, the European Union would like to reiterate the responsibility of the Russian federal authorities to guarantee the safety of all their citizens

without exceptions, to ensure the rehabilitation of the victims and to bring those responsible to justice.

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, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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