



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 939**  
**Vienna, 31 January 2013**

**EU Statement on LGBTI Rights in Russia**

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The European Union would like to draw attention to the statement issued by High Representative Catherine Ashton on LGBTI rights in Russia on 30 January 2013:

“The High Representative expresses concern over the approval by the Russian Duma of a federal law on the "propaganda of homosexuality to minors", making it an administrative offence under Russian law.

The implementation of this law could reinforce discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals and intersex people as well as all those who support them and their choices, in particular by limiting their freedom of expression and their freedom of association and assembly.

The High Representative calls on the Russian Federation to uphold its national and international commitments – in particular in the framework of the Council of Europe as a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights – to protect the enjoyment of these rights by all individuals.”

Within the framework of the OSCE, we believe that the commitments undertaken by the participating States with regard to non-discrimination and fundamental freedoms must apply to everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons. As High Representative Ashton underscored on the occasion of the

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May, it is not a matter of introducing new rights but simply of ensuring that the same human rights are applied to every person everywhere without discrimination.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.