

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Permanent Council No. 812
Vienna, 10th June 2010

EU statement on Freedom of the Media in Armenia

Final Draft Version

The EU welcomes the adoption on 18 May by the Parliament of Armenia of the draft law amending the defamation legislation and hopes that President Sargsyan will sign the draft, as soon as possible, so it can enter into force. Decriminalising defamation sets a positive example that the EU hopes will be followed by other countries in the region.

The EU has also noted that draft amendments to the law regulating the broadcasting sector are currently being discussed by the National Assembly in Armenia. We welcome the willingness of the Government to hold public consultations on these draft amendments and the fact that some positive changes have already been introduced to the text under discussion, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Council of Europe and civil society.

The EU encourages the Government and legislators to continue working closely with civil society, the Council of Europe and the

OSCE experts with a view to bringing the law on broadcasting further in line with international standards and to enhance plurality in the Armenian media and to promote media freedom.

Finally the EU would like to reiterate the importance it attaches to intensified relations with Armenia and we invite the Armenian Government to make full use of the opportunities offered by the Eastern Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA 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; el país de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y miembro del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA; al igual que UCRANIA se suman a esta declaración.

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