

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1115
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EU statement on the 10th anniversary of Anna Politkovskaya's death and on listing Memorial as a "foreign agent"

Ten years have passed since the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya. We pay tribute to a woman who had the courage to say what others may not have dared, and to stand up to injustice. Anna Politkovskaya was a staunch defender of human rights. As we have consistently said over the past decade, those who ordered this murder must be brought to justice.

The European Union and its Member States continue to be concerned about the situation for journalists in the Russian Federation today. In the decade since Politkovskaya's death, the space for independent journalism in Russia has narrowed further. We echo the call of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on the government of the Russian Federation, made on the anniversary of Politkovskaya's death, to end impunity for crimes committed against journalists. The EU also remains concerned about the implications of recent legislative developments in the Russian Federation, including amendments to the information law that have the potential to stifle basic human rights such as freedom of expression.

The EU welcomes the resolution on Safety of journalists adopted by consensus on 29 September by the UN Human Rights Council and calls on all participating States to live up to international standards in this regard.

The EU and its Member States were deeply disturbed to learn of the inclusion of the International Memorial Society in the register of "foreign agents" by the Russian authorities on 4 October. This follows the addition of the Levada Centre last month, and of over 140 other Russian civil society organisations since the law came into force in 2012.

The International Memorial Society is a well-known and well respected non-governmental organisation that has worked for many years in the pursuit of truth and justice for all those

who suffered persecution and oppression in the Soviet Union. Knowing the truth about history, including in relation to the fate of individuals allows society and families to preserve the memories of victims, educate future generations and helps ensure that such atrocities are not repeated. We therefore echo the statement by ODIHR Director, Michael Link, and Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship, Gernot Erler, that this is cause for serious alarm.

This listing brings to eight the number of Memorial-affiliated NGOs listed in the "foreign agents" registry, including the Memorial Human Rights Centre listed since July 2014.

The EU has repeatedly stated that the law on "foreign agents" has led to a worrying restriction of freedom of association in Russia. It therefore reiterates its call on the Russian government to suspend the practice of branding Russian NGOs as "foreign agents".

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, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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