



**EUROPEAN UNION**

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## **EU statement on new sentencing of Azerbaijani journalist**

The EU expresses its grave concern at the conviction and sentencing of imprisoned journalist and former newspaper editor Eynulla Fatullayev on drug possession charges. The EU shares the view expressed by the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media on 6 July 2010 that these new charges remain questionable. Besides, the EU notes that they will result in Mr Fatullayev's transfer from general prison to a more restrictive prison regime.

The EU is particularly concerned that this new judgment has been taken just two weeks before the deadline for compliance with the European Court of Human Rights' ruling overturning the sentence imposed on Fatullayev at an earlier trial and demanding that he be immediately released from custody. In this regard, we refer to our PC statement of 29 April 2010 and reiterate our call on Azerbaijan to honour its obligation under Art. 46 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In conclusion, we call on the Azerbaijani authorities to allow a swift appeal against this conviction, ensuring full compliance with international

legal standards. The EU would be ready to join the OSCE Office in monitoring the appeal trial.

The candidate countries CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.