



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1030 Vienna, 11 December 2014

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#### **EU Statement on the Detention of Journalist Khadija Ismayilova in Azerbaijan**

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The European Union would like to draw attention to the Spokesperson of the High Representative/ Vice President Federica Mogherini statement made on 9 December on the arrest of Ms Khadija Ismayilova:

“The arrest of investigative journalist Ms Khadija Ismayilova by the Azerbaijan authorities last Friday, and her commitment to pre-trial detention on a charge of 'incitement to suicide', is a step against the freedom of expression which is key to any democratic society. Azerbaijan needs to stand fully by its international commitments, as a member of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, to ensure the freedom of the press. The EU will closely follow developments in Ms Ismayilova's case.”

Mr Chairperson,

Ms Ismayilova is a well-known person within the OSCE for having participated in several events of the organisation, notably the July 2014 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Expression, in the margin of which she took part in an EU-organised side event on journalism and torture. We also appreciate her active participation in this year's HDIM. Her arrest is the latest in a series of efforts by the authorities to silence critical voices in Azerbaijan.

We have noted the reassurances of the delegation of Azerbaijan when this case was raised in Basel that Ms Ismayilova was only involved as a witness. We would be grateful if the Azerbaijani delegation could provide a further update on this case in view of the confirmation of her detention.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA\*, the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania 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.

[Alignment Paragraph]