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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 769
Vienna 16 July 2009**

EU Presidency Statement on the murder of Natalia Estemirova

The European Union (EU) would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the EU Presidency Statement as follows which was issued on 15 July 2009.

Presidency Statement on the murder of Natalia Estemirova

The Presidency of the European Union condemns the murder of Natalia Estemirova - prominent Human Rights Defender of the Russian NGO Memorial - who was found murdered in Ingushetia on 15 July 2009.

The Presidency expresses its deep condolences to Natalia Estemirova's family and her colleagues at the Memorial Human Rights Organisation. The Presidency urges the Russian authorities to swiftly and thoroughly investigate the murder of Natalia Estemirova and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

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The murder of Natalia Estemirova in the Northern Caucasus draws attention to the necessity of protecting Human Rights Defenders in Russia, in accordance with the universally recognized UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders.”