



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 848
Vienna, 27 January 2011**

EU statement on freedom of the media in Armenia

In June 2010 the EU raised in the Permanent Council the issue of the ongoing reform of the broadcasting sector in Armenia. The EU welcomed Armenian plans to consider further reforms to the broadcasting law in order to bring Armenia's media law further in line with international standards and to enhance media plurality.

With the next cycle of elections due to start in Armenia in 2012, a free, independent and pluralistic media becomes even more important and is needed to ensure democracy, including free and fair elections. We understand that a working group is drafting recommendations now. We hope that they are published soon and that they duly take into account the detailed recommendations put forward by OSCE experts, including the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the Council of Europe.

Finally the EU would like to reiterate once again 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.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, ICELAND and MONTENEGRO, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as

well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

** Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.