



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 847
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EU statement on the Khodorkovskii/Lebedev case

The European Union recalls the statement issued on 30 December 2010 by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Khodorkovskii/Lebedev case. The EU has been following the trial proceedings against the former owner of the oil company YUKOS, Mikhail Khodorkovskii, and his business associate, Platon Lebedev, who were sentenced on 30 December 2010 to six additional years of imprisonment. We are concerned about allegations of irregularities in the proceedings.

Judicial independence and the right of every citizen to a fair trial are enshrined in the OSCE's Copenhagen and Moscow documents. These commitments were reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government of the participating States in the Astana Commemorative Declaration. Judicial independence and the right of every citizen to a fair trial are also protected under the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Russia is a party, and are of crucial importance to the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Russian Federation.

The European Union will continue to follow the Khodorkovskii/Lebedev case closely and expects that their rights will be fully respected during their appeal trial. As emphasised at the EU-Russia Summit on 7 December in Brussels, the EU expects Russia to respect its international commitments in the field of human rights and the rule of law. The rule of law is a cornerstone of the Partnership for

Modernisation between the EU and Russia. We stand ready to support Russia to fulfil its commitments in this field.

The candidate countries CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, ICELAND and MONTENEGRO, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country ALBANIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as GEORGIA, 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.