



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 862 Vienna, 19 May 2011

EU statement on the Moscow mechanism

The EU would like to recall that the Moscow Mechanism was developed to further respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law through dialogue and co-operation and assist in the resolution of specific relevant questions. We once again underline that, under the Moscow Mechanism, all participating States have committed themselves to co-operate fully with the expert mission, to facilitate its work and to grant the mission all the facilities necessary for the independent exercise of its functions, in particular to allow the mission to enter their territory without delay.

In light of this, we have learned with concern that Belarus has failed to grant the assistance and access, in particular by not issuing a visa, to the OSCE rapporteur Professor Decaux to which he is entitled under the provisions of the Moscow Mechanism. In doing so, the Belarusian authorities are in clear violation of their OSCE commitments. We call on Belarus to reconsider its position and to grant Professor Decaux the necessary assistance and access he is entitled to.

The candidate countries CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries

LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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

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