



PC.DEL/1217/11  
22 December 2011

ENGLISH only

## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council 895  
Vienna, 22 December 2011**

### **EU statement on the killing of journalist Khadzhimurad Kamalov in the Dagestan Republic of the Russian Federation**

---

The European Union strongly condemns the killing of journalist and founder of the independent “Chernovik” weekly Khadzhimurad Kamalov in the Dagestan Republic of the Russian Federation on the night of 15 to 16 December. Our sympathies are with the victim’s family, friends and colleagues, to whom we extend our sincerest condolences.

We share the concern of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms Dunja Mijatovic, expressed in a press release on 16 December 2011 that this murder targets a newspaper known for its investigative reporting.

We urge the relevant authorities to swiftly and thoroughly investigate the case and to bring those responsible to justice. In this regard, we note that law enforcement agencies have opened a murder investigation and that the police have launched a search for the murderer and possible accomplices. We also note that investigators do not rule out the victim’s journalistic activities being the motive for the killing. Therefore, we urge the Russian authorities to also take all necessary measures to ensure that journalists

working in the Russian Federation can carry out their professional duties safely and without fear.

We are deeply concerned that, as reported by the Committee to Protect Journalists, since 2000 seven journalists have been assassinated in the northern Caucasus and those cases remain unsolved. The culture of impunity has led to a massive vacuum of independent information from and about the volatile region.

The killing of Khadzhimurad Kamalov once again highlights that enhancing the safety of journalists should be a priority within the OSCE. In this context, we particularly regret that not all participating States have been able to agree in Vilnius to adopt a decision on this issue. We hope that this will be possible during the tenure of the incoming Irish Chairmanship.

The acceding country CROATIA\*, the candidate countries THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA and SAN MARINO 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.