



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 899 Vienna, 26 January 2012

#### **EU statement on the arrest of opposition party members and a journalist in Kazakhstan**

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The EU has learned with concern about the raids on the office of Kazakhstan's unregistered opposition party "Alga!" and on the apartments of its leaders on 23 January, as well as the arrest of the party leader, Vladimir Kozlov, several party members and the editor-in-chief of the independent Vzglyad newspaper, Igor Vinyavski. We welcome and support the statement by the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The raids and arrests were announced to be linked to the official investigations of the reasons behind the violent events that took place last December in the Zhanaozen district of Kazakhstan, where 17 people died and 110 others were injured.

We recall the commitment made by the authorities of Kazakhstan to conduct an open and transparent investigation into the Zhanaozen events. We also recall OSCE commitments as regards the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and call on Kazakhstan to implement them fully, including during the investigation.

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, 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.