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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE  
744th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 December 2008

**Regarding the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of  
the European Union on the search of the offices of the Memorial  
organization in St. Petersburg on 4 December 2008**

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the search of the offices of the Memorial organization in St. Petersburg on 4 December 2008.

“The European Union expresses its deep concern at the search of the offices of the Memorial organization in St. Petersburg on 4 December 2008.

This action, only a few days before the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, sends out a negative signal.

The European Union urges the Russian authorities to guarantee the freedom of action of this organization, whose work and action to safeguard the memory of the victims of Stalin’s regime and to protect human rights are internationally recognized and acclaimed. It is very concerned at the use of the law on extremism against this association.”