

Spanish Presidency of the European Union**OSCE Permanent Council No. 792
Vienna 28 January 2010****EU statement on the deaths of Konstantin Popov and
Sergei Magnitsky and the need to accelerate reform of
the criminal justice system in Russia**

The EU regrets the tragic death of Mr. Konstantin Popov, a Russian journalist who was allegedly beaten and tortured by a police officer in a detention facility in the Siberian town of Tomsk and who died last week as a consequence of his injuries.

This case follows the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer charged with tax evasion who died in a Moscow pre-trial detention facility last November after allegedly being denied medical treatment.

In connection with these and other incidents, we recall our shared OSCE commitment (Vienna, 1989) to “ensure that all individuals in detention or incarceration will be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person”.

We welcome President Medvedev’s public statements and actions in response to the Magnitsky case. These include his instructions to the Prosecutor General and to the Minister of Justice to conduct a

thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Magnitsky.

We note that swift action by the Russian authorities in response to Mr. Popov's death has led to the arrest of a police officer and the dismissal of the Head of the Tomsk Region Interior Directorate.

We also welcome the media coverage and public debate in Russia which these cases have prompted, highlighting the need to take urgent action to address the problem of abuses in police detention.

The EU therefore very much welcomes President Medvedev's calls for further reform of the criminal justice system and of the Ministry of Interior. We also welcome the decisions recently taken by him in this regard, such as the 24 December Decree on Police Reform and the signing on December 29 of two laws (one on house arrest as a substitute for pre-trial detention and another making it illegal to hold persons accused of tax and other financial crimes in pre-trial detention) in line with OSCE commitments shared by all of us.

The EU will continue to follow the developments in this area with great interest.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la antigua REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que UCRANIA se alinean con esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.