



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1031 Vienna, 18 December 2014

EU Statement on Freedom of the Media in Turkey

The European Union would like to express its concern about the recent police raids and the detention of a number of journalists and media representatives in Turkey that call into question the respect for freedom of media, which is a fundamental human right and a core principle of democracy. We expect that the principle of presumption of innocence will prevail and recall the inalienable right for an independent and transparent investigation in case of any alleged wrongdoing, with full respect of the rights of the defendants to a fair trial and due process.

We note with the Representative on Freedom of the Media that in recent years there has been a substantial decrease of imprisoned journalists in Turkey. This weekend's developments point to a resurgence in the threats against journalists. We call on Turkey to respect the freedom of the media, and ensure a safe and enabling environment for media actors to carry out their work independently and without fear of reprisals.

The Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.