



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1148
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EU statement on the killing of Dimitry Popkov

The European Union expresses its deep concern over the killing of investigative journalist Dimitry Popkov, Chief Editor of newspaper Ton-M in the Russian city of Minusinsk. Mr Popkov's body was found with multiple gunshot wounds on May 24. This is not the first case of murder of a journalist in the Russian Federation this year.

Journalists in Russia are far too often subject to acts of intimidation, threats, and attacks. This has a chilling effect on freedom of the media and free expression, and there must be no impunity for such acts. Noting that a police investigation has been opened on the case of Mr Popkov, we call on Russian authorities to ensure that this case is handled swiftly, thoroughly, and impartially and that all those responsible are brought to justice.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA, CANADA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.