



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 984
Vienna, 20 February 2014**

**EU Statement on the Independent TV Channel “Dozhd” in
Russia**

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to developments in recent months in the sphere of media freedom in Russia, in particular concerning the independent TV channel “Dozhd”.

We join the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in expressing concern about the orchestrated exclusion of TV channel “Dozhd” from major cable TV networks and satellite operators in Russia. “Dozhd” has contributed to a more pluralistic media landscape in Russia. Its effective cutting-off would have serious consequences for media freedom and media pluralism in Russia.

We call on the Russian authorities to respect its OSCE commitments on freedom of expression and media freedom and to ensure that the overall media environment remains pluralistic and free from political interference.

The Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate ALBANIA and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.