



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1062
Vienna, 16 July 2015**

**EU statement on the implementation of the law on
"undesirable organisations" in Russia**

In our statement of 28 May, we expressed the European Union's concern at the enactment by the Russian Federation of a law on so-called undesirable non-governmental organisations. We noted that this law would have a further negative impact on the work of civil society in Russia.

The recent request by the Federation Council to the Prosecutor General's Office to consider 12 reputed NGOs as undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation will, if implemented, further isolate civil society and disrupt its legitimate work.

The law on "undesirable NGOs" as well as the "foreign agents" law and restrictions on foreign media ownership are already crippling civil society and restricting the exercise of fundamental freedoms in Russia. In practice, the law on "undesirable NGOs" bars internationally recognised NGOs from working for and with Russian citizens and civil society and prohibits the participation of Russian citizens in their activities.

This law is yet another worrying sign of the shrinking space allowed for independent civil society in Russia, which is being targeted by measures like the harassment of the independent election observers of Golos and the listing of organisations as "foreign agents". Such listings are increasingly leading to the termination of the activities of the listed organisations, with the most recent examples of the Dynasty Foundation and the Committee Against Torture.

The EU calls on the Russian authorities not to proceed with the implementation of this law, which would violate Russia's international human rights obligations in the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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

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