



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 25 March 2013

**EU statement on the Magnitsky case in the Russian Federation
(Committee of Ministers' Deputies 1166th meeting on 27 March 2013)**

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Magnitsky case in the Russian Federation of 20 March 2013:

“The EU has continuously urged the Russian Federation to undertake a credible and thorough investigation into the case of Mr Magnitsky's death in pre-trial detention, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Russian Federation had repeatedly stated its commitment to undertake such an investigation.

Two independent investigations, conducted by the Public Oversight Commission for Human Rights Observance in Moscow Detention Centres and by the Russian Presidential Council on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, revealed that Sergey Magnitsky was subjected to inhumane conditions, deliberate neglect and torture. Under these circumstances, the decision of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation to ignore these findings and to close the criminal investigation into the death of Sergey Magnitsky for lack of evidence of any crime is regrettable.

The closure of this case prematurely, while at the same time opening the posthumous trial against Magnitsky himself is an additional source of concern as to the state of the due process of law in the Russian Federation.”

The European Union appeals to the Russian Federation to fully respect Council of Europe standards and values and to implement its commitments and obligations, with regard to pluralist democracy, the rule of law and human rights, undertaken when acceding to the Council of Europe.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.