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**OSCE Permanent Council No 1181
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EU statement on freedom of expression in Tajikistan

The EU shares the concerns expressed on the extension of the pre-trial detention of Tajik journalist Khairullo Mirsaidov. The charges against Mr Mirsaidov raise serious concerns in light of his whistle blower activities.

We recall that the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which was adopted by consensus in November last year, condemns unequivocally all attacks against journalists including arbitrary detention.

We will continue to closely follow the case of Mr Mirsaidov and the situation for freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Tajikistan at large. We call on the authorities to fully adhere to all relevant international obligations, including respect for freedom of opinion and expression, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as OSCE commitments in this regard.

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, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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