**Spanish Presidency of the European Union**

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 800**
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## EU statement on Azerbaijan

The EU welcomes the news that Mr. Ganimat Zahidov, the former editor-in-chief of the Azerbaijani newspaper Azadliq who had been sentenced to four years of imprisonment on charges of hooliganism, was pardoned last week by President Ilham Aliyev after serving two-thirds of his prison term.

The EU regrets that this measure was not extended to other detained journalists and media workers in Azerbaijan, in particular the two youth activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade. We regret the recent Court of Appeal ruling in this case and hope the appeal to the Supreme Court will produce a positive result.

We also remain concerned at the doubtful new charges against Eynulla Fatullayev, already imprisoned on charges of defamation.

In this context, the EU calls on Azerbaijan to handle these cases in full compliance with international legal standards, and prevent the

misuse of hooliganism and defamation charges against those who exercise their universal right of Freedom of Expression.

The EU reiterates its support for further political and legal reforms in Azerbaijan aimed at increased convergence with the values and principles promoted both by the OSCE and the EU as well as the Council of Europe, and stands ready to assist the Azerbaijani authorities in their endeavours in this regard, also in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

Los países candidatos CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.