



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No. 1284 Vienna, 8 October 2020

#### EU Statement on the case of Mr. Yuri Dmitriev

The European Union continues to follow closely the situation of Yuri Dmitriev, a respected historian known for his human rights work and his research on political repression in the Soviet period.

On 29 September 2020, Mr. Dmitriev's sentence was increased by the Supreme Court of Karelia from 3 years and 6 months to 13 years' imprisonment in a high security penal colony. Other charges, for which he had already been acquitted by the first instance court, were turned back for reconsideration in the Petrozavodsk City Court.

We reiterate our concerns about Mr. Dmitriev's continuing imprisonment based on spurious charges and flawed legal procedures. We call on Russia to honour its commitments under the Copenhagen Document to ensure a fair trial. We reiterate our call on the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Dmitriev.

Furthermore, we underline that his release is all the more urgent since his health has deteriorated significantly since the beginning of his detention, which puts him at additional risk in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The recent sentencing of Mr. Dmitriev is yet another manifestation of the pressures on independent civil society, human rights defenders and independent political voices, as well as the restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms in

the Russian Federation. We call on Russia to ensure full respect of OSCE human rights standards.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and CANADA align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.