



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1279 Vienna, 3 September 2020

EU Statement on the poisoning of Alexei Navalny

The European Union has been closely following the recent developments related to the poisoning of the Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny during his stay in Siberia. We are deeply concerned that toxicological agent test by a special laboratory, tasked by the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, has shown unequivocal proof of a chemical nerve agent of the Novitschok group in test samples from Mr Navalny. We strongly condemn what seems to be an attempt on Mr Alexei Navalny's life. It is particularly worrying that the incident took place during the campaign period before "the single voting day" in Russia.

We are grateful to the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin staff for their treatment of Mr Navalny and wish him a prompt and full recovery.

It is imperative that the Russian authorities initiate an independent and transparent investigation on the poisoning of Mr Navalny without delay, in line with its international and OSCE commitments.

We, together with the international community, are demanding full transparency on all the facts behind Mr Navalny's poisoning as well as other poisoning cases in the past. Those responsible must be held to account.

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

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