

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
in honour of Mrs Starovoitova**

The European Union considers the overwhelming sentiment of grief and sorrow expressed at the occasion of Galina Starovoitova's funeral ceremony as a sign of hope that, despite her tragic death, her tireless efforts for democracy and the defence of human rights will not be forgotten and pass into oblivion. State Duma Deputy Starovoitova, one of the leading female politicians in Russia, was always a great advocate and supporter of peace and human dignity. We condemn her cowardly killing and expect that her assassins will swiftly be brought to justice.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.
