



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the human rights defender Liu Xiaobo**

Recalling its declaration on June 26, 2009, the European Union reiterates its deep concern about the continued detention, indictment and upcoming trial of prominent human rights defender Mr Liu Xiaobo. Mr Liu was taken into custody on 8 December 2008 and was recently indicted for his role as the alleged author of Charter 08, a blueprint for democratic and rights-based reforms in China. Recalling China's international human rights obligations, as well as the Chinese constitutional guarantees on freedom of expression, the EU calls on the Chinese government to unconditionally release Mr Liu Xiaobo and to end the harassment and detention of other signatories of Charter 08.

P R E S S

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
