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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.11.2024)

The EU firmly condemns Russia's ongoing intimidation, harassment and killing of European media workers who report from its war of aggression against Ukraine. This also includes the use of politically motivated arrest warrants, recently issued by Russia against international journalists reporting from war zones and frontlines.

The EU consistently highlights Russia's attempts to obstruct the work of European and other journalists addressing these issues regularly in multilateral fora like the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) where Russia is present.

In particular, Russia's ongoing intimidation and harassment of journalists in war zones and frontlines was raised in the statements by the EU at the OSCE Permanent Council on 26 September 2024¹ and 17 October 2024². On 11 October 2024, the EU raised the issue in the European External Action Service Spokesperson's statement where it condemned the death of Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna³. She died while being in illegal arbitrary Russian detention.

The EU will remain steadfast in its commitment to protect media freedom and the safety of journalists around the world and in war zones.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna-international-organisations/osce-permanent-council-no1489-vienna-26-september-2024_en?s=66

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna-international-organisations/osce-permanent-council-no1492-vienna-17-october-2024_en?s=66

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ukrainerrussia-statement-spokesperson-death-ukrainian-journalist-russian-captivity_en