



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

STATEMENT BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM CONDOLENCES TO VÁCLAV HAVEL'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

20 December 2011

We were saddened to learn of Václav Havel's death. Václav Havel remains inspiration for us and everyone in different parts of the world struggling for freer societies. Becoming a symbol of civil society, society of citizens, which has the power to change the path of history, he believed and stood for these ideals both as dissident and top politician. He had a number of friends among former Soviet dissidents as well as human rights defenders of the new era. Watching Russia for a long time with concern, he gave one of his last interviews to Novaya Gazeta saying that "Russian society struggles with the harshest known form of post-communism combining old-time stereotypes with new business-mafia environment". We send our condolences to his family and closest friends. We are deeply thankful for his inspiration, and wish we can uphold his legacy.

EU-Russia Civil Society Forum