



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1088
Vienna, 4 February 2016**

**EU Statement on Abduction and Illegal Detention of
Ukrainian Citizens by the Russian Federation**

The European Union recalls that all hostages and illegally detained persons related to the crisis in and around Ukraine, including Nadiya Savchenko, should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package. We call on all sides to comply with this provision. We remain concerned about reports of Nadiya Savchenko's deteriorating health and her ongoing hunger strike.

Moreover, we call on Russia to respect its international commitments, including those of the OSCE, and release without further delay all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens both in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, including Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and Ahtem Çiygöz.

We underline that Russia bears responsibility for the health, wellbeing and observance of the human rights of all persons it detains. We will continue to follow these cases very closely and to attend the trial of Nadiya Savchenko.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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