



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council N°1086 Vienna, 21 January 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 should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package. We call on all sides to comply with this provision.

We call on Russia to respect its international commitments, including those of the OSCE, and release without further delay all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, including Nadiya Savchenko, Oleh Sentsov, and Oleksandr Kolchenko. We deeply regret that the Rostov Regional Court has rejected an appeal filed by Nadiya Savchenko's defense team and has upheld the Donetsk City Court's decision to extend Savchenko's detention until April 16, 2016. We are particularly concerned about reports of her deteriorating health. 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 monitor 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 countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members 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.