



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1068 Vienna, 17 September 2015

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 underline that Russia bears responsibility for the health, wellbeing and observance of the human rights of all persons it detains.

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 note with particular concern Oleh Sentsov's allegations that he was tortured whilst being illegally detained in Russia, and the Russian state's failure to investigate these allegations.

We will continue to monitor the trial of Nadiya Savchenko very closely. We note with dismay the extension on 15 September of her detention for a further six months.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.