



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1042 Vienna, 5 March 2015

EU statement on the Abduction by Russian Federation of an Estonian Police Officer

Exactly six months have passed since the abduction of Estonian police officer Mr Eston Kohver by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory near the Estonian-Russian border. His abduction and continuing illegal detention in Lefortovo prison constitute a clear and grave violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

The EU remains seriously concerned about the conduct of the court proceedings in respect of Mr Kohver. His illegal pre-trial detention has been extended until 5 April. Mr Kohver has been deprived of the right to fair proceedings and he does not receive appropriate legal aid by the attorney appointed by Russian authorities. We are particularly disturbed about the order of an unfounded psychiatric examination, the details of which still remain unknown.

Despite repeated requests, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve the issue. We call once again on the Russian Federation to act according to its international obligations and release Mr Eston Kohver immediately and guarantee his safe return to Estonia.

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, the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA 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.