



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1096  
Vienna, 14 April 2016**

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

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All hostages and illegally detained persons related to the crisis in and around Ukraine should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package.

We continue to call on the Russian authorities to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Nadiya Savchenko. We are deeply concerned by reports of her seriously deteriorating health. She has now been without food or water for 8 days in protest against her illegal detention in Russia, flawed trial and sentencing. In the meantime, we urge Russia to allow access to Ukraine's consular representatives and to grant Ms Savchenko's request to receive medical assistance from international medical teams.

Moreover in accordance with Russia's international commitments, including those in the OSCE, we continue to call on the Russian authorities to free and release without further delay all other illegally detained Ukrainian citizens both in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, including Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and Ahtem Çiygöz.

We also continue to carefully follow the case of Natalya Sharina, the Head of the Moscow Library of Ukrainian Literature, and we are concerned by the charges brought against her by Russian authorities last week.

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 closely.

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, ANDORRA 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.