



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1060
Vienna, 18 June 2015**

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

Nine months have passed since the abduction of Estonian police officer Mr Eston Kohver on 5 September 2014 by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory. His abduction and continuing illegal detention constitute a clear and grave violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

The illegal detention of Mr Kohver has once again been prolonged, he has been deprived of the right to fair proceedings and he does not receive adequate legal aid. We are disturbed that there is no public hearing of the case and that the Estonian consul is not allowed to be present at the court hearings.

Despite repeated requests, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve the issue. The EU calls once again on the Russian Federation to release Mr Kohver immediately and to ensure 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, and the EFTA country NORWAY, 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.