



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1059
Vienna, 11 June 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 conflict in and around Ukraine should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package of implementation measures.

We remain deeply concerned about the health of Nadiya Savchenko who was abducted and illegally transferred to Russia in connection with the conflict in eastern Ukraine. We deeply regret yesterday's decision by a Moscow city court to extend the pre-trial detention of Nadiya Savchenko until 30 September. We underline that Russia bears responsibility for the health, wellbeing and observance of the human rights of all the persons it illegally detains, in particular the right to a fair trial. This pertains to Ukrainian filmmaker Oleh Sentsov, Crimean activist Oleksandr Kolchenko, and all other Ukrainian citizens who are being illegally detained in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula.

We once again call on Russia to respect its international commitments and immediately release all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens without further delay.

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.