



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **On the Abduction of Eston Kohver**

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 18, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Nine months have passed since members of the Russian Security Services abducted Estonian police officer Eston Kohver from Estonian territory. His abduction and continued detention on baseless charges raise serious concerns regarding Russia's compliance with its international legal obligations.

We are particularly disturbed that neither the public nor even the Estonian consul have been allowed to be present during the judicial proceedings, including the recent hearing that extended Mr. Kohver's pre-trial detention until August 8, almost a year after he was abducted.

We are also deeply troubled by reports that Mr. Kohver has not received adequate legal representation by his attorney, who was appointed by Russian authorities.

We call once again on the Russian Federation to release Mr. Kohver immediately and to guarantee his safe return to Estonia.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.