



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1064 Vienna, 19 August 2015**

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#### **EU statement on Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation**

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The European Union once again 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 underline that Russia bears responsibility for the health, wellbeing and observance of the human rights of all the persons it detains.

We call on Russia to respect its international commitments and release without further delay all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, including Nadiya Savchenko, Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko.

The transfer of the trials of Nadiya Savchenko, Oleh Sentsov, and Oleksandr Kolchenko to the Rostov region of Russia significantly hampers access to the court for observers. We note that the trial of Nadiya Savchenko was adjourned at the first hearing of the case in the small border town of Donetsk on 30 July to consider an appeal to conduct the trial in Moscow.

The EU through its Delegation and Member State embassies in the Russian Federation was present at the hearing in the Savchenko case on 30 July and is present in Rostov-on-Don today to monitor the trial of Sentsov and Kolchenko. We will continue to follow these cases very closely.

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.