

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1066th
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the case of the Estonian citizen Mr. Eston Kohver

I should like to answer the questions raised by a number of delegations regarding the guilty verdict handed down in Russia to the Estonian citizen Eston Kohver, who was found guilty under a whole range of articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation of espionage, illicit trafficking, carrying weapons and crossing a border illegally.

When you hear the outcry from the European Union (EU), Norway, Canada or the United States of America, it would seem that the Estonian Internal Security Service officer Eston Kohver became some kind of innocent victim of an evil conspiracy when he was arrested in September 2014 in the Pskov region of the Russian Federation.

I must remind my colleagues that, much as they may like to, they will not succeed in creating the heroic image of an innocent victim in the case of Eston Kohver.

Eston Kohver was arrested on Russian Federation territory with special recording equipment, a pistol with bullets and 5,000 euros while carrying out an undercover operation, which served as the legal basis for his arrest on suspicion of espionage. Adequate clarification of the matter was already provided to Estonia by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Estonia in September 2014, that is virtually immediately following the incident.

The investigation into the case was carried out in strict accordance with national legislation and in meticulous compliance with all the criminal procedure norms.

The endeavour of a number of our colleagues, in particular the EU, Norway, Canada and the United States, to politicize a purely criminal matter looks like an attempt to exert pressure on the judicial authorities of another State.

The claims of the United States delegation are particularly hypocritical given that this is a country that makes extensive use of the practice of arbitrary extraterritorial arrests of Russian citizens upon the request or with the direct involvement of American law enforcement bodies, often without any kind of legal basis to boot. Furthermore, the authorities of a number of European States are providing remarkably active support to their

partners across the ocean in this regard. Yet, for some reason, they are never condemned for this.

Thank you for your attention.