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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1095
Vienna, 7 April 2016**

EU Statement on Abduction and Illegal Detention of Ukrainian Citizens by the Russian Federation

Despite repeated calls by the European Union and many others worldwide for her release, Nadiya Savchenko was convicted and sentenced to 22 years imprisonment by a Russian court on 22 March 2016. We condemn this sentence as the result of a flawed trial. Reports that she has re-started her “dry” hunger strike and on her poor health are extremely worrisome. We continue to call on the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Nadiya Savchenko.

All hostages and illegally detained persons related to the crisis in and around Ukraine should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package.

Moreover, we call on Russia to respect its international commitments, including those in the OSCE, and release without further delay all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens both in Russia and on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula, including Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and Ahtem Çiygöz.

We underline that Russia bears responsibility for the health, wellbeing and observance of the human rights of all persons it detains. We will continue to follow these cases closely.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.