



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1017 Vienna, 18 September 2014

EU Statement on the Abduction of the Estonian Police Officer

The European Union is gravely concerned by the abduction of Estonian Police Officer Mr Eston Kohver on 5 September by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory near the Estonian-Russian border. Despite repeated calls from Estonia, the European Union and others, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve this matter swiftly.

The illegal crossing onto Estonian territory, the abduction and arbitrary detention of an Estonian citizen by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation cannot be justified. These actions constitute a clear and grave violation of international law by the Russian Federation, including the principle of sovereignty, inviolability of frontiers, and the norms and principles of international law that affirm the individual's right to liberty and security of the person.

We call once again on the Russian Federation to respect international law, act according to its principles and release Mr Eston Kohver immediately and guarantee his safe return to Estonia.

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 and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia 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.