



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement on the verdict against Estonian police officer Eston Kohver

On 5 September, one year will have passed since the abduction of Estonian police officer Eston Kohver by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory. On 19 August the Pskov Oblast regional court sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment.

Mr Kohver's abduction and subsequent illegal detention in Russia constitute a clear violation of international law. Moreover, from the very beginning, Mr Kohver has been deprived of the right to a fair trial: there was no public hearing of the case; the Estonian consul was not allowed to be present at the hearings; and Mr Kohver was deprived of adequate legal aid.

Despite repeated requests, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve the issue. The EU continues to call on the Russian Federation to act according to its international obligations, release Mr Kohver immediately and guarantee his safe return to Estonia. The EU will continue to follow the issue 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, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA 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.