



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1025 Vienna, 13 November 2014

EU Statement on the Abduction by the Russian Federation of an Estonian Police Officer

The European Union remains gravely concerned by the abduction of Estonian Police Officer Mr Eston Kohver on 5 September 2014 by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory near the Estonian-Russian border. We continue to underline that Mr. Kohver's abduction and continuing illegal detention constitute a clear and grave violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

Despite repeated calls from Estonia, the European Union and others, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve this matter swiftly.

We are seriously concerned about the conduct of the proceedings in respect of Mr Kohver. Mr Kohver has been deprived of the right to fair proceedings and he does not receive appropriate legal aid by the attorney appointed by the Russian authorities. We are particularly disturbed about the order of a psychiatric examination for Mr Kohver and despite continued requests, an Estonian doctor has not been allowed to visit him.

We call once again on the Russian Federation to respect international law, act according to its international obligations 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 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.