



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1093
Vienna, 17 March 2016**

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

The latest reports on Nadiya Savchenko's deteriorating health and her hunger strike are extremely concerning. In line with the demarche delivered by the European Union to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs earlier today, we again call on Russia to arrange her immediate and unconditional release.

The European Union recalls that all hostages and illegally detained persons related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine should be released as stipulated in the Minsk Package. We call on all sides to comply urgently with this provision.

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 very closely and to attend the trial of Nadiya Savchenko.

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.