

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1044  
Vienna, 12 March 2015**

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**EU statement on Abduction and Illegal detention of  
Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation**

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Mr Chairman, we remain extremely concerned that Nadia Savchenko, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, who was kidnapped in Ukraine and transferred to Russia, continues to be illegally detained. Nadia Savchenko remains seriously ill and her life is at risk, after having been on a hunger strike for more than 80 days. We underline that Russia bears a responsibility for her very fragile health. We call on Russia to urgently release Nadia Savchenko. Also in keeping with the commitments of the Minsk package, all hostages and detained persons related to the conflict in Ukraine should be released.

We welcome that ODIHR representatives attended the court hearing on 25 February and we would be interested to hear their observations. We encourage ODIHR to continue monitoring the trial of Ms. Savchenko.

We once again call on Russia to respect its international commitments and to immediately release Nadia Savchenko as well as Oleh Sentsov and all other Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia. We will continue to follow these cases 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, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.