



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**Delegation to the Council of Europe**

**1233<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers**  
**Strasbourg, 8 July 2015**

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

Ten months have passed since the abduction of Estonian police officer Mr Eston Kohver on 5 September 2014 by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory.

His abduction and continuing illegal detention constitute a clear and grave violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

The illegal detention of Mr Kohver has once again been prolonged, he has been deprived of the right to fair proceedings and he does not receive adequate legal aid.

We are disturbed that there is no public hearing of the case and that the Estonian consul is not allowed to be present at the court hearings. Despite repeated requests, the Russian authorities have failed to resolve the issue.

The EU calls once again on the Russian Federation to release Mr Kohver immediately and to ensure his safe return to Estonia.

The countries ALBANIA, GEORGIA, ICELAND, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, NORWAY, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA and UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.