



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation to the Council of Europe

**1221st meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg, 4 March 2015**

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

Six months have passed since the abduction of Estonian police officer Mr Eston Kohver on 5 September by the Russian Security Services on Estonian territory near the border with Russia. His abduction and continuing detention constitute a violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

In addition to his illegal detention, Mr Kohver has been deprived of the right to fair proceedings and he does not receive appropriate legal aid. We are particularly disturbed about Russia's demand that he undergoes a psychiatric examination, the details and reasoning of which remain unknown.

We call once again on the Russian Federation to act according to its international obligations, to release Mr Eston Kohver immediately and to ensure his safe return to Estonia.

The Candidate Countries "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"*, MONTENEGRO *, ICELAND+, and ALBANIA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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