



The President

312508 20.08.2014

Ms Anna Koj  
Head of the EU Office  
Open Dialog Foundation  
Résidence Palace  
155, rue de la Loi  
1040 Brussels

Dear Ms Koj,

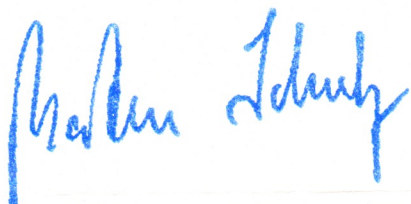
Thank you for your email of 7 July 2014 in which you inform the European Parliament about the case of film director Oleg Sentsov and three other activists that were arrested in Crimea and transferred to Russia where they were charged with terrorism offenses and arms trafficking. This specific case has also been mentioned by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its June report, and I can assure you that I am deeply concerned by the alleged use of torture against the activists during their detention in Crimea and by their illegal transfer to Moscow. It is also a grave source of concern that the detainees have been denied Ukrainian consular assistance as they are no longer considered as Ukrainians by the Russian authorities following Crimea's annexation.

The European Parliament has repeatedly reiterated its condemnation of Crimea's illegal annexation by the Russian Federation and has remained firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. The European Parliament deplores the deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea and is deeply concerned by the reported cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions as well as the alleged use of violence and ill treatment targeting civil society activists, political opponents and journalists in Crimea.

I would like to re-assure you that the situation in Ukraine remains a very big concern for the EU and for the European Parliament in particular. One of the first debates of its 8th legislature was dedicated to the situation in Ukraine and the European Parliament adopted a new resolution on 17 July (enclosed in annex). As you might also be aware, on 11 July, the Council further extended the list of persons subject to assets freeze and visa bans and the European Council further decided on 16 July to expand the restrictive measures, with a view to targeting entities that are materially or financially supporting actions undermining or threatening Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

I would also like to stress that we will continue to follow the situation in Ukraine very closely and notably the human rights situation in Crimea. We will also monitor closely the specific case of Oleg Sentsov and I would like to thank you again for bringing this issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



**Martin Schulz**

Encl.: EP resolution on Ukraine adopted on 17 July 2014