



Brussels, 17 October 2014

Mr President Putin,

We, Members of the European Parliament, hereby address you with regard to the case of Ms Nadiya Savchenko, Ukrainian pilot and Lieutenant of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, kidnapped by the separatists in Eastern Ukraine in mid-June, 2014 and illegally transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation where she is currently being held in detention and her case being brought to court.

As decryed by a number of human rights organisations, Ms Savchenko was initially denied the possibility to consult a lawyer and to receive visits from the Ukrainian Consul. She has also withstood ill-treatment in prison, including coercing her to admit to a crime of which she declares she is innocent.

We believe that the Russian Federation's actions towards Ms Savchenko brutally violate the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms -- and in particular Article 5 - Right to liberty and security, and Article 6 - Right to a fair trial -- to which the Russian Federation is a signatory.

Furthermore, we deem unacceptable that one of our colleagues, Ms Rebecca Harms, Member of the European Parliament, was on 25 September, 2014 denied entry to the Russian Federation, while travelling with a diplomatic passport on a trip to attend Ms Savchenko's trial.

As Mr Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, stated, "it is completely unacceptable to withhold the passport and papers of any elected Member of the European Parliament and to threaten that entry into the Russian Federation would be considered as a criminal activity".

We urge you to immediately take all actions necessary to ensure that this case is conducted in compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights. In particular, we ask that admission to the hearings by any Member of the European Parliament be guaranteed.

H E Mr Vladimir Putin
President of the Russian Federation

Given the numerous accusations of ill-treatment, we also request to visit Ms Savchenko while in detention, in order to directly assess the conditions in which she is being held so as to verify her physical and mental state.

Furthermore, we reiterate what has been stated in the resolution by the European Parliament of 18 September, 2014 and call on the Russian authorities to release Ms Savchenko as well as other illegally detained persons in Ukraine, and those who have been transferred to Russia. Should this be done, it would be seen as a significant confidence-building measure in EU-Russia relations.

Members of the European Parliament:

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