



Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 3 November 2014

**Mr Vygaudas Ušackas,
Ambassador,
Head of the Delegation
of the European Union in Moscow**

Dear Mr Ambassador,

As a Member of the European Parliament, a member of the Delegation to the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly and a substitute member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, I would like to express my deep concern over the information I received from international human rights organizations concerning the case of Ms Nadiya Savchenko, a Ukrainian pilot and now member-elect of the Ukrainian parliament, illegally transferred, detained and prosecuted by the Russian authorities.

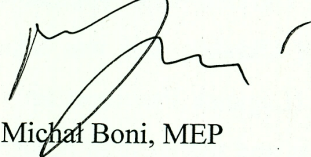
Nadiya Savchenko is a Lieutenant of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who voluntarily participated in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in the East of Ukraine, and was taken prisoner by pro-Russian separatists near the village of Metallist (Lugansk Province) on 17 June, 2014. As a result of the cooperation between these terrorists and the Russian security services, Ms Savchenko was illegally transferred to the Russian Federation on 24 June, 2014. Officially arrested on 30 June, 2014 she is now facing a criminal case, accused of 'complicity in the deaths of Russian journalists Mr Igor Kornelyuk and Mr Anton Voloshin'. Ms Savchenko allegedly played the role of a fire spotter in the mortar attack during which the journalists were killed.

According to the information published by the lawyers of Ms Savchenko and shared by the non-governmental organizations, just before the last court hearing, Ms Savchenko has been sent for a month-long psychiatric evaluation to the Serbsky State Scientific Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow. Furthermore, her lawyers were not informed about the fact that their client was being taken away from the detention facility, the same as one month before, when she was being transferred from Voronezh detention facility to Moscow.

On the same day, the Human Rights Center Memorial, the 2009 Sakharov Prize winner, and one of the most recognizable and respected NGOs working on human rights and rule of law in Russia, recognized Ms Savchenko as a 'prisoner of conscience'. Now, the Memorial faces harassment and persecution from the Russian authorities.

Taking into account all of this disturbing information, I would like to ask what kind of activities are taken by the European External Action Service, in particular the EU Delegation in Moscow, in order to ensure that the trial of Ms Savchenko is conducted in accordance with the basic legal principles and international legal acts to which Russia is a party? Will the diplomats of the Delegation of the European Union in Moscow monitor the case by being personally present at the next court hearing on 11 November, 2014? Have the EU diplomats requested a possibility to visit Ms Savchenko at the Serbsky State Scientific Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow, in order to check her physical and mental condition, and ensure that her rights are not being violated there?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michal Boni', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michal Boni, MEP