



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1232 Vienna, 13 June 2019

EU Statement on the detention of Roman Udot in the Russian Federation

The EU was concerned to learn of the arrest of Mr Roman Udot, a well-known expert on elections and democratic institutions, in Russia on 20 May. Mr Udot has been charged with “threatening murder or the infliction of grievously bodily harm” under Part 1 of Art.119 of the Criminal Code, and was placed under house arrest.

We are disappointed that on 4 June a court rejected Mr Udot’s appeal against his continued detention under house arrest. Mr Udot’s lawyers have argued that the case is politically motivated and in response to Mr Udot’s work, as a representative of the Golos Foundation, to investigate election fraud. We also note the statement by the renowned Russian human rights organisation, Memorial, which recognised Mr Udot as a political prisoner.

We too are concerned that the case against Mr Udot, and in particular his continued house arrest, which includes a number of restrictions preventing Mr Udot from continuing his work and supporting his family, stem from his role as an independent election expert. We call on the Russian Federation to ensure Mr Udot’s right to a fair trial, and his right not to be subjected to arbitrary detention, as enshrined in OSCE commitments. As a first step, we call on the Russian Federation to bring to an end Mr Udot’s continued detention under house arrest.

Mr Udot is well known to the OSCE, having participated in numerous OSCE human dimension events over many years. The EU will continue to monitor developments in this case closely.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and CANADA align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.