

Brussels, 25th of September, 2017

APPEAL

To: Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General
of the Council of Europe,

To: Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe's
Commissioner for Human Rights,

Copy: Mr. Petro Poroshenko, the President of
Ukraine,

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

A year has passed since Roman Sushchenko, Ukrainian journalist working in France, was detained in Lefortovo on the 30-th of September, 2016.

Mr. Sushchenko is accused in espionage because of his visits to the territory of Russia, the actual reason of which were his visits to his relatives, living at the territory of the Russian Federation.

Following the discussions over the past four years the situation on the protection of political freedoms and democratic institutions has in the Russian Federation. Moreover, dozens of citizens of other nationalities, in particular Ukrainians, were exposed to pressures and arrested on false charges for their alternative views and ideas, independent social and political activities.

On the 25-th of August, 2017, Oleg Sentsov, the Ukrainian movie producer and one of the political prisoners of Russia, has got a verdict to be sentenced for 20 years in the high-security prison in Rostov-na-Donu and Oleksandr Kolchenko, another Ukrainian citizen, has got 10 years of sentence.

After the investigation by independent international organizations it has been acknowledged that case against Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko has been fabricated.

Case of the Roman Sushchenko, which is waiting for the court decision to be made on the 30-th of September, is one of the issues of big concern for the Members of the European Parliament.

The negotiation process between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on release of the political prisoners has been frozen at the end of May, 2016. Since then none of the prisoners has been released or exchanged.

We consider such situation as a deterrent to fulfill the Minsk Agreements, in particular the art. 5, 6 and 7 of the document, mentioned.

The release of Roman Sushchenko gives the chance to restore possible negotiation process regarding the exchange issues, as to restore the negotiation process regarding the other humanitarian issues, foreseen in the Minsk Agreements.

We believe that particularly at present, there is a need to conduct more extensive and detailed monitoring on the situation of political prisoners of Ukraine and would like to ask you to support our intentions and bring the attention of the international community to the “Sushchenko’s case” and take into consideration our following proposals;

- Request the Russian Federation that Mr. Roman Sushchenko, Ukrainian journalist, which has been working for Ukrinform branch in France, will be released from the imprisonment in Lefortovo and will be able to come back to Ukraine safe and health for the protection of human rights;
- A new to speed up the comprehensive and objective investigation on political prisoners of Ukraine and arranging legal circumstances for the international rapporteur to be able to come to their places of imprisoning to monitor their physical and mental health state;
- Consider the opportunity to support the renew the negotiation process on the articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Minsk Agreements during the next meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group;

Sincerely,

Michał Boni, EPP

Pavel Svoboda, EPP

Eduard Kukan, EPP

Helga Stevens, ECR

Rebecca Harms, Greens

Carlos Coelho, EPP

Tunne Kelam, EPP

Mark Demesmeaker, ECR

Michael Gahler, EPP

Monica Macovei, ECR