Parlement européen

Mrs Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the
Union for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy
European External Action
Service
1046 Brussels

Brussels, 7 November 2016,

Dear Mrs Mogherini,

We are writing to you regarding the case of Roman Suschenko, a Ukrainian journalist, illegally detained by the authorities of the Russian Federation since September 30th.

Roman Suschenko is a Ukrainian journalist, working for the Ukrainian national news Agency "UKRINFORM" since 2002; he is accredited as a permanent journalist in France and has been living in France since 2010. Roman Suschenko has acquired a solid reputation and expertise.

Last September 30th, Roman Suschenko was arrested by the Russian authorities while on a personal vacation in Moscow, Russia. Since this arrest, he has been held in pre-trial detention in the pre-trial detention centre of Leforto on espionage charges. The Russian authorities are claiming that Roman Suschenko is a colonel from the Ukrainian military intelligence and that he was collecting classified data about Russia's Armed Forces and National Guard.

This arrest and the accusations towards Roman Suschenko are totally unfounded and arbitrary. We are shocked by this arrest and more generally we are worried about the multiplication of unlawful arrests and unlawful detentions in Russia. This case is

nothing more than further illegal act towards Ukrainian citizens, made by the Russian Federation and represents yet another example of Russian policy of intimidation and prosecution. It is also a very worrying signal for any potential visitor to the Russian Federation – where everybody may be accused of espionage and be detained.

We, Members of the European Parliament and members of the EP group of Friends of European Ukraine, thereby call for the release of Roman Suschenko and we ask you, as High Representative of the European Union to call for his release and demands Russia to respect the Ukrainian citizen's rights.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Griesbeck

Petras Austrevicius

Zigmantas Balčytis

Michael Boni

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

Mark Demesmaeker

Anna Fotyga

Ana Maria Gomes

Tunne Kelam