

Question for written answer E-006778/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Russian detention of Estonian intelligence officer

It has been widely reported that on 5 September 2014, an Estonian intelligence officer, Mr Eston Kohver, was detained by the Russian internal security services on accusations of espionage. Described in much of the popular press as an 'abduction', the incident has resulted in Mr Kohver being imprisoned and charged with espionage, which carries a custodial sentence of up to twenty years.

Russian authorities claim that Mr Kohver was detained on Russian territory, contrary to reports from the Estonian side, and is said to have been in possession of a pistol, ammunition and EUR 5 000.

1. What discussions has the Vice-President / High Representative held with the Estonian Foreign Minister on this incident and what, if any, requests have been made as a result of such discussions?
2. Does the European External Action Service interpret this incident as an isolated case or rather the beginning of a broader plan by Russian officials to continue with such detentions along the Estonian border?
3. What representations does the VP/HR intend to make to the Russian authorities regarding the detention of Mr Kohver, as both an EU citizen and a member of the intelligence staff of a Member State?