



Strasbourg, 18 October 2018

Dear Steering Committee members,

I refer to your appeal to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe dated 4 October 2018.

The Council of Europe continues to follow closely the situation of several persons who have been detained or imprisoned by the respective authorities in the Russian Federation and Ukraine since 2014. As you may know, in June the Secretary General directly appealed to the President of the Russian Federation with a petition to pardon Mr Oleg Sentsov on humanitarian grounds. He also remains in contact with the Ombudspersons of the Russian Federation and Ukraine with a view to supporting the implementation of agreements between the Presidents of both countries.

I should also like to inform you that an individual application by Mr Sentsov is being considered by the European Court of Human Rights. On 25 July, the Court ordered an interim measure under Rule 39 of the Rules of the Court, calling on Russia to provide Mr Sentsov with appropriate treatment in an institutionalised medical setting. The Court also invited Mr Sentsov to end his hunger strike and to accept any life-saving medical treatment offered.

Yours sincerely,

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