

## Russia must release Sentsov and all Ukrainian hostages

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Madrid, Spain, on 8-10 of November 2018:

### Recognises that:

- the Russian authorities detain in prison Mr Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian filmmaker who openly opposed the annexation of Crimea by Russia, was kidnapped and convicted for 20 years of imprisonment in Russia, and over 60 other Ukrainian hostages in Russia and Crimea on politically motivated charges;
- Mr Sentsov's hunger strike began May 14 and he is asking for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners, rather than his own. He stopped his hunger-strike October 6 due to the threat of being force-fed;
- He became a symbol of the struggle for the release of political prisoners for Ukraine, Russia, and all over the world;
- On October 25 Sentsov was awarded the European Parliament Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

### Notes with severe concern:

- the pleas addressed directly to President Putin to free Mr Sentsov from leaders of France, Ukraine, the Council of Europe, democratic Russian public figures, the Yabloko party, experts from the UN and the Organisation for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), filmmakers, philosophers, journalists, writers and non-governmental organisations from all the world, Ukraine and Russia inclusive, campaigns for the release of Oleg Sentsov, have all gone unheeded;
- that there is no sign that President Putin will make even the slightest concession or release Mr Sentsov; that the Kremlin won't act to show a human side, continuing to demonstrate shocking injustice.

### Calls for:

- the Russian authorities to immediately release Mr Sentsov and all other Ukrainian prisoners being held as hostages on politically-motivated charges;
- the international democratic community to go on demanding from the Russian authorities to release political prisoners, stop curbing the freedom of speech and implement the obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation when signing international treaties in observing human rights, preserving peace in the world and integrity of the states.

### Resolution:

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### Year and Congress:

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### Category:

Foreign Affairs

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