

Volodymyr Zelensky
President
Ukraine



CC:
Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union

Brussels, 04 september 2019

Dear President,

It has come to our attention that the Russian Federation has requested that Mr Vladimir Borisovich Tsemakh be handed over as part of a prisoner exchange negotiated between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Mr Tsemakh is a former commander of pro-Russian air defence forces in the non-government controlled territory of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" and is a key suspect in the tragedy of passenger flight MH17, shot down in eastern Ukraine on 17 July 2014 by a Russian BUK missile. All 298 people on board, including 196 Dutch, were killed.

While we understand the context within which such negotiations are taking place and the diplomatic efforts by the Ukrainian authorities to this end, Mr Tsemakh is a suspect in the criminal investigation related to the downing of flight MH17 and his availability and testimony before the Joint Investigation Team is thus of the utmost importance for an effective prosecution by the countries involved.

Mr Tsemakh is a Ukrainian citizen and is under Ukrainian custody. UNSC resolution 2166 demands that those directly or indirectly responsible for the downing of MH17 must be held accountable and must be brought to justice.

The European Parliament and the European Council have reiterated on numerous occasions their full support to the work of the Joint Investigation Team and the ongoing efforts. All States that are in a position to assist with the investigation and prosecution of those responsible must fully cooperate with the ongoing criminal investigation.

It is our hope that the present letter receives all the attention it deserves so that justice can be done to all the victims and to the suffering of all those who have lost their loved ones.

Best regards,

Kati Piri (S&D), Netherlands
Tanja Fajon (S&D), Slovenia
Urmas Paet (Renew), Estonia
Peter van Dalen (EPP), Netherlands
Brando Benifei (S&D), Italy
Juozas Olekas (S&D), Lithuania
Bas Eickhout (Greens), Netherlands
Agnes Jongerius (S&D), Netherlands
Sven Mikser (S&D), Estonia
Mohammed Chahim (S&D), Netherlands

Radoslaw Sikorski (EPP), Poland
Nacho Sanchez Amor (S&D), Spain
Marek Belka (S&D), Poland
Esther de Lange (EPP), Netherlands
Paul Tang (S&D), Netherlands
Katalin Cseh (Renew), Hungary
Isabel Santos (S&D), Portugal
Klara Dobrev (S&D), Hungary
Andrius Kubilius (EPP), Lithuania
Rasa Juknevičienė (EPP), Lithuania
Catherine Rowett (Greens), United Kingdom
Tineke Strik (Greens), Netherlands
Tom Berendsen (EPP), Netherlands
Tonino Picula (S&D), Croatia
Jeroen Lenaers (EPP), Netherlands
Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), Spain
Viola von Cramon (Greens), Germany
Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP), Netherlands
Dace Melbarde (ECR), Latvia
Sandra Kalniete (EPP), Latvia
Lara Wolters (S&D), Netherlands
Vasile Blaga (EPP), Romania
Vera Tax (S&D), Netherlands
Sophie in 't Veld (Renew), Netherlands
Samira Rafaela (Renew), Netherlands
Malik Azmani (Renew), Netherlands
Jan Huitema (Renew), Netherlands
Caroline Nagtegaal-van Doorn (Renew), Netherlands
Liesje Schreinemacher (Renew), Netherlands
Nicolae Stefanuta (Renew), Netherlands