

**STATEMENT BY CHAIRS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES
CONDEMNING THE SENTENCING OF VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA
20 April 2023**

We, the Chairs of our respective national Parliaments' Foreign Affairs Committees, strongly condemn Russian court decision sentencing one of the leading opposition politician and Kremlin vocal critic Vladimir Kara-Murza to 25 years in prison on politically motivated charges.

It is clear demonstration of misuse of power by Russian authorities and attempt to silence the political opponents. The Russian judicial system continues to be instrumentalised against advocates for democracy, journalists and other courageous activists.

All persons responsible for Mr. Kara-Murza's prosecution, detention and sentencing must be held accountable by imposing targeted sanction under the respective global human rights sanctions regimes.

We consider Mr. Kara-Murza's conviction to be contrary to Russia's international obligations on human rights, including the right to a fair trial, and call for his immediate and unconditional release without further delay.

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