



### **Statement from the President of the European Commission following the detention of Alexei Navalny yesterday in Moscow**

Brussels, 18 January 2021

I condemn the detention of Alexei Navalny yesterday by the Russian authorities, upon his return to Russia. The Russian authorities must immediately release him and ensure his safety.

Detention of political opponents is against Russia's international commitments.

We also continue to expect a thorough and independent investigation on the attack on Alexei Navalny's life.

We will monitor the situation closely.

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Press contacts:

[Eric MAMER](#) (+32 2 299 40 73)

[Dana SPINANT](#) (+32 2 299 01 50)

[Peter STANO](#) (+32 2 295 45 53)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)