



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 766 Vienna, 15 October 2014

EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities and the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States reiterate our concern that, despite the ceasefire agreed last month, violence is continuing in a number of places in Eastern Ukraine. We recall that all provisions of the Minsk agreements must be fully implemented by all sides.

Strict observation of the ceasefire is a necessary step for the much needed restoration of peace and stability in the East of Ukraine including with a view of preventing human rights violations and for the investigation of those that have occurred so far. Furthermore, effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian state border and withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces illegally operating on Ukrainian territory should be integral part of a sustainable political solution of the crisis in and around Ukraine based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In this context, we took note of the launch of the Joint Centre on Control and Coordination (JCCC) with the participation of military personnel from Ukraine and the Russian Federation as well as of the initial comments provided in this regard during the FSC meeting last week. Nevertheless, we would be interested in hearing more from the parties about the planned operations and mandate of the Joint Centre and its relationship with the OSCE SMM.

We also took note of the notification circulated by Canada to inform Ukraine about its intention to conduct a multilateral inspection under the Vienna Document 2011 as well as of the positive reply of Ukraine. We are looking forward to discussing in the FSC the report of the mission upon completion.

We believe that such cooperation underpins our position, expressed several times in this Forum, that the FSC and its instruments have an important and proper role in helping to facilitate a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Mindful of this, we reiterate our call on all participating States, in particular the Russian Federation, to maximise restraint and transparency while carrying out military activities and exercises in areas adjacent to the border with Ukraine. In this respect, we believe that the announced return of more than 17.000 Russian troops from training areas in the Rostov region to their permanent bases is a welcomed step if verified and fully implemented.

The European Union reiterates its strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and will not recognise it. The European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

** Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.