



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Special Permanent Council No 995 Vienna, 14 April 2014**

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#### **EU Statement on OSCE Engagement with Ukraine**

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The European Union reiterates once again its strong support for the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Executive Structures. We applaud the Ukrainian authorities for their initiative to invite the OSCE and draw on OSCE expertise.

We commend the Special Monitoring Mission for its reports to date. The Mission plays a crucial role in actively observing and reporting about developments and thus contributing to deter a further escalation of the situation. The Mission must be present where the events are taking place. We appreciate very much that the Mission has been able throughout the recent events to report accurately and quickly. We express our support to an expansion of the Mission to draw on its full potential in light of the developments on the ground and we encourage it to continue its prompt reporting when situation so requires. We also encourage the Mission to have a close dialogue with civil society and the media.

We commend and support the many other OSCE efforts in Ukraine, including the National Dialogue Programme, the Human Rights Assessment Mission, ODIHR's Election Observation Mission, the activities of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine and of the OSCE institutions and activities conducted within the framework of the Vienna Document. We welcome the meeting between the Ukrainian and the Russian parliamentary delegations in Vienna last Friday. All these efforts show that the OSCE has an important and valuable role to play throughout Ukraine in helping to stabilize the situation and solve this crisis.

We once again call for all OSCE representatives to have safe and free access throughout Ukraine to fulfil their mandate. We reiterate that close cooperation between all relevant OSCE structures, as well as coordination with other international

actors, is paramount to the OSCE's ability to act with urgency and consistency and to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground in Ukraine.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Iceland+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

*\* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

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