



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 846<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(22 February 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 1)

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes today's speakers and thanks them for their presentations and insights on the topic of «***Politico-military activities undertaken by the OSCE Missions***».

We align ourselves with the statement just made by the Delegation of the EU, which we fully support. In addition, we wish to make some remarks in the national capacity.

Over the years the OSCE field missions have established a recognised positive record of close co-operation with the authorities of the host countries in responding to their needs and priorities relating to fostering implementation of OSCE commitments, including in the politico-military dimension, and thus promoting peace and security. The areas of focus in each particular country have their own specificities, while overall contributing to the promotion of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security.

Presently Ukraine hosts two field presences: the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM) and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, which perform important activities, especially in the politico-military sphere. In the past three years the main threats and challenges to Ukraine's security were stemming from Russia's armed aggression against our country – starting from the Crimean peninsula and later extending to the Donbas region of Ukraine. Diffusing the tensions, mitigation of multi-faceted consequences of the conflict started by Russia and its peaceful resolution in accordance with the reached agreements and with full respect for international law and OSCE principles remain the primary concerns of the Ukrainian authorities.

We thank Ambassador Verba and his professional and dedicated team for the productive work of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine in partnership with the state and local authorities and the civil society. This result-oriented work encompasses all three OSCE dimensions and multi-dimensional aspects of security, assisting the ambitious reform agenda and the process of democratic transformations pursued by the President and Government of Ukraine. We appreciate our close co-operation in such areas, in particular, as police and security sector reforms, arms control, humanitarian demining and awareness-raising, strengthening chemical safety

and security. We note the efforts in the area of conflict prevention and resolution, which belong to the core mandate of the OSCE, however their impact is limited when applied only on the territory of the country, which is a victim of external aggression, while the aggressor-state continues to perpetrate its illegal and irresponsible acts and indulge in war-mongering propaganda founded on fakes and manipulations.

The SMM in Ukraine, established and deployed nearly three years ago upon the request of the Ukrainian Government, is today the largest, the most complex and costly OSCE field presence. The mandate and the tasks of the SMM have been formulated to respond to the most serious crisis in European security evolving from 2014 when the Russian troops first breached Ukraine's borders. Those initial tasks have been supplemented by important additional functions of the SMM relating to implementation of Minsk agreements that were signed within the Trilateral Contact Group of Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE as a mediator. These Minsk documents include, in particular, the Protocol and Memorandum of September 2014 and the Package of Measures of February 2015. The SMM is tasked with such critically important functions in the conflict-affected areas of Donbas as monitoring compliance with the ceasefire; the verification of withdrawal of heavy weapons; monitoring and verification of withdrawal of Russian troops, weapons, fighters and mercenaries from Ukraine's territory; establishment of permanent monitoring at the segment of the Ukrainian-Russian state border, which is currently not controlled by the Government of Ukraine. Effective implementation of these tasks is necessary for sustainable de-escalation and tangible progress towards peaceful resolution. Apart from personal commitment of the SMM monitors, it requires significant enhancement of technical capabilities of the mission and due financial resources to support it.

The SMM will not be able to effectively perform its monitoring and verification tasks unless the present strict restrictions on and impediments to the monitors' freedom of movement and access, plans to open additional bases in the occupied areas of Donbas are removed. The SMM must enjoy safety and full freedom of movement and these issues must retain priority attention of the participating States to foster the SMM's capabilities to deliver on the needs on the ground and our expectations.

The challenges remain significant and the ability to cope with them will continue to be testing for the OSCE as the security organisation.

In conclusion, we wish to express appreciation for the strong involvement of the OSCE in addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine and reiterate the interest of our country in fostering implementation of the OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension, including through maintaining close co-operation with the field presences.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**