Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

OSCE response to the crisis in Ukraine

As of 1 August 2014

Swiss Chairmanship's initiatives (ongoing)

Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office has been active throughout the crisis and intervened on presidential and ministerial level with the aim of finding a diplomatic solution for the conflict. These contacts run parallel to the constant interaction between the 57 participating States in Vienna.

At the request of President Poroshenko, in the beginning of May the Swiss Chair has agreed to send Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, an experienced Swiss diplomat, to Ukraine. Ambassador Tagliavini represents the OSCE Chairmanship in a **tripartite Contact Group** that also includes Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The Tripartite Contact Group has met on several occasions and proved instrumental in securing access of OSCE observers to the crash of the MH17 plane in Eastern Ukraine in July.

In the beginning of May, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship proposed a **roadmap for the implementation of the Geneva Joint Statement** of April 17 and distributed it to the four parties of the Geneva Statement. The speech of the Swiss Chairperson-in-Office to the EU Council of Foreign Affairs on 12 May outlining this evolving concept can be found at http://www.osce.org/cio/118479.

National Dialogue Roundtables owned and led by the Ukrainian government are an element of the roadmap implementation. So far, three roundtable meetings were organized: in Kyiv on 14 May, in Kharkiv on 17 May, and in Mykolaiv on 21 May.

In February 2014, Burkhalter appointed Swiss Ambassador to Germany Tim Guldimann as **Personal Envoy on Ukraine** to co-ordinate all OSCE activities. He visited Ukraine several times to assess the situation first hand and conduct negotiations.

OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (21 March 2014 – ongoing)

On 21 March 2014, all 57 participating States of the OSCE took a consensus decision to send to Ukraine a Special monitoring mission of civilian international observers. The Mission's six-month mandate was extended in July 2014, and will now run until March 2015.

The mission currently consists of some 250 international observers from more than 40 OSCE participating States, and local staff. The number of monitors can be expanded up to 500. Monitors have been initially deployed to Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Luhansk. Any change in deployment must be agreed by all 57 participating States.

The Mission is operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency. The monitors gather information and report on the security situation; establish facts in response to incidents; establish contacts and facilitate dialogue on the ground to promote normalisation of the situation.

Special Monitoring Mission members were the first international staff that arrived at the site of the MH17 plane crash in Eastern Ukraine already the next day after the tragedy.

See daily updates on the Mission's work: http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/daily-updates

OSCE Observers to two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border (24 July 2014 - ongoing)

On 24 July, all 57 participating States of the OSCE decided to deploy an Observer Mission to the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk at the Russian-Ukrainian border. This happened in

response to an invitation from the Russian Federation, which follows the Berlin Declaration of 2 July by the Foreign Ministers of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine.

The Observer Mission started its work on 30 July; it will be deployed for up to three months. It is composed of one Chief Observer, 15 observers working on 24/7 basis in teams, and three administrative staff. The group of observers will be based in the town of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky in Rostov region.

It will operate impartially and transparently, monitoring and reporting on the situation at the two checkpoints, as well as on the movements across the border. The Observer Mission will report to OSCE participating States on a weekly basis.

The Observer Mission at the two Russian border checkpoints is distinct and separate from the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Election observation mission (20 March – 30 June 2014)

Following the invitation from Ukraine to observe the 25 May early presidential election, the **OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)** deployed 100 long-term observers in the weeks leading up to the vote, and 900 short-term observers closely before the elections. The size and format of this election observation mission are similar to those for previous ODIHR observation missions in Ukraine. On the election day the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly joined ODIHR in observing the vote.

On 26 May, one day after the elections, international observers presented their preliminary statement which said that despite violence and threats in east, Ukraine election was characterized by high turnout and resolve to guarantee fundamental freedoms. On 30 June, final report was issued.

See all information about the election observation mission in Ukraine at osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine/116545

Military verification activities (ongoing)

In March, Ukraine requested OSCE participating States, OSCE partners for co-operation and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) to send their representatives from 5 to 12 March 2014, invoking Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011 which allows for voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about unusual military activities. A continuation of verification visit was later requested by Ukraine until 20 March 2014, this time to cover the south and east of the country. During these visits, 30 OSCE States sent 56 unarmed military and civilian personnel to Ukraine.
The group attempted to visit Crimea several times, but was unable to move beyond checkpoints at the administrative border. However, based on the observations made of the military activity the group stated that it is not able to dispel military concerns in Crimea.

Since the 20th of March, smaller inspection teams of unarmed military experts have been on the ground in Ukraine. The military inspectors work on behalf of their countries. They look at military security aspects of the situation on the ground.

In addition, requests for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities were made under the Vienna Document by Canada, Estonia, Ukraine and the United States addressed to the Russian Federation, as well as by the Russian Federation addressed to Ukraine. These request led into three joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and of the Permanent Council of 7, 17 and 30 April 2014.

Countries that so far decided to send military inspectors and observers in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011 are Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, USA and the United Kingdom which conducted in total 11 verification activities in Ukraine. In addition, Belgium,

Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States conducted in total five verification activities in the Russian Federation.

These visits, inspections and other types of military verification activities under the Vienna Document 2011 are elements of the larger response by the OSCE community to the crisis in Ukraine.

Human Rights Assessment Mission (18 March – 12 May 2014)

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE High Comissioner on National Minorities upon the request of Ukrainian government conducted a human rights assessment mission in a number of cities, including Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Mikolayiv, Odessa and Simferopol, as well as the surrounding regions. The mission members met with representatives from national government and local authorities, political parties and international organizations and from civil society and minority communities. A report on the mission's findings and recommendations was released on 12 May 2014, see www.osce.org/odihr/118454.

National Dialogue Project (20 March – 30 April 2014)

On 20 March 2014 the OSCE, following the request of Ukraine, deployed a team of 15 international experts to Ukraine as part of a National Dialogue project to identify areas for further OSCE activities to support confidence-building between different parts of Ukrainian society.

The project team was deployed for four weeks in five locations agreed with the Ukrainian government: Odessa, Kharkiv/Luhansk, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk and Lviv. The project was carried out by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and led by Ambassador Hidajet Biščević of Croatia. The project experts met with local authorities, NGOs, and followed public events in these cities and surrounding regions to gather information about issues of concern, in particular political, humanitarian and minority issues.

The project recommendations for future OSCE engagement to foster social cohesion and dialogue in Ukraine, and were presented to all participating States, including Ukraine, at the Permanent Council in Vienna on 30 April 2014. See www.osce.org/ukraine/118166

OSCE institutions and structures

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier has travelled to various capitals, including Moscow and Kyiv, to discuss the situation and offer OSCE action in maintaining open and inclusive dialogue, dispelling concerns, and de-escalating the crisis. See more at www.osce.org/sg

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is the permanent OSCE field presence in Ukraine. It was established to plan, implement and monitor projects relevant authorities of Ukraine and the OSCE and its institutions. The PCU has been running a number of projects in response to the crisis in Ukraine, including the National Dialogue Project. See more at www.osce.org/ukraine

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors travelled to Kiev and Simferopol in March 2014, to assess first-hand the situation on the ground, especially regarding the Crimean peninsula, and visited the country several times later.

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović travelled to Ukraine in spring 2014. She has made continuous reports on issues of media freedom and issued a report on media freedom situation in Ukraine from November 2013 to May 2014, see www.osce.org/ukraine/118166

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, based in Copenhagen, has been closely monitoring the situation and sent a mission to observe the May 25 early presidential election. For more information, see www.oscepa.org