



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°822 Vienna, 8 June 2016

EU Statement on the Security Situation in and around Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States condemn in the strongest terms the recent security incidents targeting the SMM. Over the past two weeks, the SMM patrols were threatened and shot at. The SMM UAVs were jammed and the two remaining long-range SMM unmanned aerial vehicles were downed over separatist-controlled areas. The SMM's cameras near Donetsk airport remain disabled by separatists. Such actions are unacceptable, and must stop immediately. Those responsible for such attacks must be held accountable. The SMM must have full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine, including along the Ukrainian-Russian State border. Impediments to the SMM's work, which continue to occur overwhelmingly in areas not under the control of the Ukrainian government, represent a violation of the Minsk agreements and seriously impede the monitoring function of the SMM.

We remain concerned about the deteriorating security situation in eastern Ukraine. Last week, an increase of 50% in ceasefire violations was recorded in Donetsk region. In addition, the SMM noted an increase in the use of mortars further raising concerns. All sides must take immediate steps to reverse this negative trend by disengaging and strictly adhering to the ceasefire. All Minsk-regulated weapons must be unconditionally and verifiably withdrawn, and the SMM must receive all the information it requested from the sides more than six months ago. These are necessary steps to move towards a sustainable ceasefire, which is essential to ensuring progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We call on all sides not to use residential areas for military activity, as reported by the SMM, in order to avoid civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. We

condemn continued shelling of residential areas leading to civilian casualties and damage.

We deeply regret that so-called “humanitarian convoys” from Russia continue to enter Ukrainian territory without the consent of the Ukrainian authorities in clear violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as without fundamental international humanitarian principles being observed.

We remain firm in calling on all sides to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honour their commitments, including ensuring the ceasefire, as well as those related to agreeing on the modalities of local elections in certain parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, OSCE standards and monitored by ODIHR, in order to achieve a sustainable political settlement of the conflict, based on full respect for Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. We underline Russia’s responsibility in this regard and once again call on Russia to use its considerable influence over the separatists it backs to meet these commitments in full. The ceasefire must be respected. All Minsk-regulated weapons must be withdrawn and foreign armed formations, military equipment and mercenaries removed from Ukraine. Re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its state border is essential. We reiterate our concern regarding information about the presence of military equipment and personnel from Russia in the conflict zone, as was most recently confirmed also in the Report on Human Rights situation in Ukraine by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Specifically, we express our concern about SMM reports regarding the presence of an Orlan-10 UAV in separatist-held areas. We note that this type of UAV is manufactured only in Russia and used by the Russian military. In that regard, we would appreciate receiving clarifications on the presence of this UAV from the Russian delegation.

We recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and call upon Russia to do likewise. We urge Russia to strictly observe these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, to stabilise the situation and

reverse moves that contravene these principles. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* 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.