



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 993 Vienna, 3 April 2014

EU Statement on Violations of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union remains deeply concerned about the situation in Ukraine, especially in Crimea. We reiterate that the Russian violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity in regard to Crimea is illegal and illegitimate and in breach of international law as well as fundamental OSCE principles and commitments. These actions cannot but undermine the required trust between participating States of the OSCE. We strongly condemn Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. The European Union remains committed to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

We continue to commend the measured response shown so far by Ukraine. We reiterate the need to find a political solution to the crisis for the benefit of all Ukrainian citizens and reiterate the need for Russia to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the Government of Ukraine. We also welcome the ongoing high-level political dialogue between international actors, including Russia. At the same time, we underline that the future of Ukraine is for the Ukrainian people to decide.

We reiterate our concern at the ongoing Russian military activity in Crimea and along the border of Ukraine. We also express our deep concern about the numerous reports of human rights violations on the peninsula, where tensions between communities are on the rise and media freedom is under siege.

The European Union welcomes the deployment of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and commends the Chairmanship and the Executive Structures for their outstanding work in preparing for this mission. It is important that the Mission has full access throughout Ukraine, including Crimea. We welcome the appointment

of the new Chief Monitor, and we are looking forward to receiving the Mission's first reports about the situation on the ground.

We welcome the important work carried out by the ODIHR and HCNM Human Rights Assessment Mission and look forward to their report.

We also welcome the deployment of ODIHR's Long-Term Election observers and encourage the Ukrainian authorities to make every effort to promote the conditions for a campaign environment that respects relevant OSCE election-related commitments. In doing so, we hope that they will draw on ODIHR's recommendations following their observation of elections in 2010 and 2012.

We also reiterate our strong support for the many other ongoing activities of the Chairmanship, participating States, the Executive Structures and the Project Coordinator in Ukraine. We believe they are all helping to stabilise the situation and solve this crisis. Close cooperation between all relevant OSCE structures, as well as coordination with other international actors, in Ukraine is paramount to the OSCE's ability to act with urgency and consistency and to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.