



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 755-th FSC Plenary Meeting  
(28 May 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I take the floor to share information concerning some latest developments on security and military situation in and around Ukraine, which, from our perspective, deserves attention of this FSC plenary meeting.

First of all, let me draw your attention to the Statement of the MFA of Ukraine issued on 27 May 2014 in connection with the latest in the long row of the breaches of the Ukrainian border by armed terrorists from territory of the Russian Federation. Despite the warnings sent by the diplomatic channels concerning the concentration of up to 40 heavy trucks with armed men on the way to state border with Ukraine, the Russian side did not prevent their attempt of incursion into the Ukrainian territory. On 27 May at 4 a.m. the group of heavy trucks and cars attempted to cross the border close to Astahove in Luhansk oblast. This attempt was carried out against the background of the lack of any response by the Russian border guards. There are all grounds to assert that operation of Russian terrorists on the territory of Ukraine is organized and financed under direct supervision of Kremlin and Russian special services.

In fact, we witness a continuing aggression against Ukraine from the Russian Federation and export of terrorism to Ukraine. Presently in the East of Ukraine Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies servicemen counter well-trained and armed Russian mercenaries, ready to rob, threaten, torture and kill Ukrainian citizens.

Aggressive actions of Russia and its puppets from terrorists' organizations prove yet again that Russia has no intention to implement Geneva agreements of 17 April 2014, even after Presidential elections in Ukraine, which were recognized by international community, including the OSCE, as democratic ones and in line with international standards.

In this context let me give you one more latest example of illegal arms shipments to Ukraine. On 25 May during the special force operation 73 boxes with armaments and explosives, directed to terrorists, were seized near Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia oblast. This shipment was delivered by sea from illegally annexed Sevastopol. In the terrorist's storage site security service arrested 88 sub-machine-guns AK-74, 5 light-machine-guns RPK-74, 3 light machine-guns PKM, 24 grenade-launchers RPG-22, 918 grenades RGD, 20 880 rounds.

This situation reaffirms that common efforts are needed in order to stop Russian procurement of terrorists and weapons on Ukraine's territory, to make Russia withdraw its saboteurs from our territory, thus leading to restore peace and order in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite some signs that part of Russian troops, which participated in the military exercises alongside the borders with Ukraine, are in preparation to leave these areas, further meaningful steps of the Russian side in this connection are expected. Their reliable verification and confirmation remain matters of utmost importance and necessity. In this regard application of military transparency measures pursuant, in particular, to the Vienna Document are highly relevant and we call upon the Russian side to make use of such measures in good faith, in line with the letter, as well as the spirit of the Vienna Document.

According to the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation from 21 to 27 May 2014 in the areas close to Lipetsk, Voronezh and Ryazan, the Russian Air-Forces carried out military exercises "Aviadarts - 2014". During these exercises combat use of missile-launchers, air-bombs and cannons against land-based targets as well as the penetration of the air-defence

systems of the eventual adversary were tested. These plans and actions caused deep concern in Ukraine. Taking into consideration the scenario of these exercises, military troops and means involved, combat use of modern weapons close to the border with Ukraine by the country, which has already committed an act of aggression against Ukraine and illegally annexed part of its sovereign territory, such actions of the Russian Federation were seen by Ukraine as provocative and an attempt to escalate tension on the eastern borders of Ukraine and in the region in general.

The exercises with such specific tasks close to the borders with Ukraine held on the day of Presidential elections in my country indicated efforts of further destabilisation of situation, especially in the eastern regions of Ukraine, and undiminishing pressure on the Ukrainian people. In its statements issued on 15 and 19 May the MFA of Ukraine called upon the Russian Federation to stop provoking instability, immediately withdraw units of the Russian Armed Forces from Ukrainian border and start implementing its commitments in accordance with the Geneva Agreement of 17 April 2014.

As official information about these military exercises appeared on the web-site of the Russian MoD, in the absence of official reaction from the Russian side on Ukrainian requests, on 20 May Ukraine activated mechanism, stipulated by the Chapter III of the VD and requested the Russian Federation to clarify the purposes of the exercises and provide data concerning numbers and character of the troops and military equipment involved (VD Format F10 CBM/UA/14/0069/F10/O). This information was due by 16.00 CET on 22 May 2014. The Russian side in its response (CBM/RU/14/0067/F41/O) stated *inter alia* that taking into consideration the parameters of troops and means involved, which do not exceed established thresholds within the VD, there is no requirements to provide clarifications pursuant to Vienna Document 2011.

In this connection let me remind our Russian colleagues that paragraph 16 of the VD determines that “Participating States will ... consult and cooperate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled activities of their military forces outside their normal peacetime locations which are militarily significant, within the zone of application for CSBMs and about which a participating State expresses its security concerns”. In accordance with this provision any participating State has the right to assess from its own perspective what constitutes militarily significant activity and seek clarifications notwithstanding the existing threshold for prior notifications.

In the present security environment, taking into account the illegal annexation of the integral part of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and continuous effect of the Decree “On the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine”, adopted by the Federal Council of the Russian Federation on 1 March 2014, we see full justification for the use of the Chapter III “Risk reduction” of the VD.

By its VD Format F 12 (CBM/UA/14/0070/F12/O) the Ukrainian side requested the convening on 26 May 2014 of the meeting under CIO Chairmanship, in which the Russian side, regrettably, decided not to participate. The Russian side again rejected this opportunity to show commitment to cooperative spirit, transparency and responsibility.

Mr. Chairman,

We took note of the statement made by the Russian Delegation on 21 May 2014 at the 57-th Joint PSC-PC plenary meeting, which partially addressed the questions about the “Aviadarts-2014”, raised in the mentioned statements of the MFA of Ukraine.

Nevertheless some clarifications are needed and we expected to receive them during the meeting on 26 May 2014. The Russian side informed about participation of 71 pilot teams. Every pilot team is supposed to carry out at least 2-3 flights. If each pilot team makes 3 flights, there will be in total more than 200 flights. These number of flights should be notified in accordance with para 40.1.2 VD. We would expect to receive confirmation on the number of flights during the exercises.

It is important to note that the active phase of the exercises took place last Saturday-Sunday. For military pilots this is not usual to carry out such exercises during the weekends, especially if this is a professional competition. So perceptions remain that the active phase overlapped with the Presidential elections in Ukraine not by simple coincidence.

We expect to hear additional information from the Russian delegation about “Aviadarts-2014”, which reportedly completed yesterday.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to dispel existing security concerns it remains crucial to pursue de-escalation by Russia's revoking the mentioned decree of the Federal Council of the Russian Federation, by return of the Russian troops from the borders with Ukraine to their permanent bases, in accordance with the orders issued by the Russian President on 19 May 2014, as well as by stopping supplies of weapons to terrorists, acting on Ukraine's territory. Verification mechanisms stipulated in the Vienna Document are an asset for all of us and should be used consistently, effectively and fully to ensure military transparency and predictability in each and every region of the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.