



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 842<sup>nd</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(25 January 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
**(Agenda item 2)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The ongoing discussions at the FSC Plenary meetings has underscored the tremendous challenge the crisis in and around Ukraine poses to all of us in the OSCE but also even more importantly for the European Security as a whole. As we have stated many times before a stable and sustainable ceasefire would be a critical first step for settlement of the conflict in the east of Ukraine and we must continue to focus our efforts on achieving that.

Ukraine with a great concern assesses the current situation in the conflict-affected areas of Donbas, where combined Russian-separatist forces have significantly intensified their aggressive activities. Over the past week the Russian hybrid forces were very active in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Mariupol areas along whole contact line, where they persisted in defying the provisions of the Minsk agreements.

Speaking about Russian hybrid forces and Russian mercenaries taking part in the military operations in the east of Ukraine we would like to draw attention of the OSCE participating States to the adoption by the Russian President V.Putin the new law «On amending the Federal Law "On Military Duty and Military Service" of 28 December 2016 № 512. Due to the Russian occupation of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, namely the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and some areas of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine, as well as the active participation of Russian regular troops in the military activity in Syria, the supreme military and political leadership of Russia has faced a significant difficulties with recruiting qualified military specialists for manning military units of the Russian Armed Forces. Therefore, by the adoption of the new Law, the leadership of the Russian Federation is actually forming a legal base for legalization of the illicit practice of involving of military mercenaries for "short trips up to one year" to Ukraine, as well as attracting the required number of "volunteers" for special military operations abroad.

**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Distinguished colleagues,**

The patterns of the Russia hybrid war against Ukraine and its strategies of deception and manipulation have not sustained significant changes in the last almost three years. Presently, security situation in Donbas again deteriorates. Regular ceasefire violations by the Russian hybrid forces, often with the use of heavy weapons, remain the daily reality. The Russian exclusive modern sophisticated weaponry and military equipment continue to be registered in use in the occupied part of Donbas. The Russian hybrid forces continue to resort to different strategies of deception to escape responsibility for non-implementation of Minsk agreements and shift blame on the Ukrainian side.

The Russian Federation continues on the permanent basis its illicit supply of manpower, weapons and ammunition for hybrid forces in Donbas to maintain military

tension, for continued killings of Ukrainian citizens and the destruction of residential buildings and industrial sites in the east of Ukraine. Many times in the previous FSC meetings we have informed our OSCE partners about the evidence of the electronic warfare equipment of Russian origin presence in Donbas, confirmed by SMM reports.

At the 826<sup>th</sup> FSC Meeting we informed that on 16 July 2016 in Donetsk city the Russian intelligence radar complex "Zoopark-1" was registered. Also in the settlements of Kalynove and Almazna (responsibility zone of the 6th separate mechanized regiment of the 2nd AC of the combined Russian-separatist forces) activity of the electronic warfare division using automated radio interference system R-330ZH "Zhytel" and electronic warfare system "Svet-KU" with the aim of jamming of all SMM UAV flights were registered.

Last Friday OSCE community was informed on the new evidence - on 19 January 2017 the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine saw again a mobile jamming communication system assessed as R-330ZH "Zhytel" north of "DPR"-controlled Vuhlehirsk (north-east of Donetsk city). The R-330ZH is a jamming communication station designed and manufactured by the Russian Company "Protek". The whole system is based on one of the trucks Ural-43203 or KAMAZ-43114 and has a shelter with four telescopic masts. In the truck there is a control centre for operators. The shelter is equipped with four telescopic active phased array transmitter antennas mounted on a four wheels trailer. The R-330ZH is designed for detection, analysis, direction-finding and jamming of satellite and cellular phone communication systems operated in the frequency from 100 to 2000 MHz. The jamming system provides analysis and selection of emitters' signal parameters.

The Security Service of Ukraine in the combat zone recently found an ammunition made by the main defence enterprise of the Russian Federation "Bazalt". Thus, on 13 January soldiers of the 92<sup>nd</sup> separate mechanized brigade of Ukrainian Armed Forces repulsed an attack of a subversive group of self-proclaimed "DPR". After that the SBU officers found automatic weapons, a grenade charge and a hand anti-tank grenade launcher abandoned by militants after their retreat while examining the place of the fire fight.

Over the past week the combined Russian-separatist forces have opened fire on the positions of Ukrainian military with an average intensity **of 28 times per day. 2 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 7 were wounded during the week.** The Svitlodarsk, Avdiivka and Shyrokyne remained the hotspots, while provocations extended to the entire contact line.

We particularly note that on 20 January a civilian bus came under fire on the temporarily occupied territory near Olenivka. The fire was coming from direction of militants' positions. The fact that the bus was damaged from the side of Russia-backed militants' position is an eloquent evidence of militants' involvement. The incident took place when the bus was proceeding along the contact line from Olenivka to Donetsk. A local woman was injured in the incident.

In this regard we call again on Russia and its hybrid forces to show restraint, respect the ceasefire, fully and verifiably withdraw all Minsk-proscribed weapons, disengage, ensure humanitarian access and full, safe and unhindered SMM access throughout Ukraine, including along the Ukrainian-Russian state border. These steps are necessary in order to move toward a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE fundamental principles and commitments.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ukraine is fully committed to stop Russian aggression and de-occupy Donbas by implementing in a good faith the Minsk agreements. We regret that Russia fails to translate into practical steps its commitments to peaceful resolution. We continue to urge the Russian Federation to implement without delay the necessary initial steps of the Minsk agreements: securing ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons, and guarantying full freedom of

movement for the SMM for effective monitoring. These important steps are an exact reflection of immediate measures as agreed by Russia in the Minsk package of measures.

In this regard, we would like to draw the attention of the delegations of the participating countries to the fact that on 20 January 2017 the command of the 9th Separate marine assault motorized rifle regiment of the 1st Army Corp of the Russian Hybrid forces tried to interfere with activity of Alexander Hug, First Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine in the regiment's area of engagement. Militants built additional checkpoints and false mine warning signs in order to hide the places where prohibited weapons were kept and to keep away the monitors of the OSCE Mission. This is another evidence of Russian tactics of deception, frauds and manipulations mentioned above.

As we have stated many times, before the conflict instigated and fuelled by the Russian Federation will not be resolved until Russian forces get out of the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**