



EUROPEAN UNION

Extraordinary Joint FSC-PC Meeting Vienna, 4 March 2014

EU Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States welcome the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship's and the Maltese FSC Chairmanship's decision to convene an Extraordinary Joint FSC-PC meeting dedicated to the situation in Ukraine, and consideration of the OSCE's possible contributions, including options offered by the politico-military toolbox.

Yesterday the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union strongly condemned the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. The Council stated that these actions are in clear breach of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. The Council called on Russia to

immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997.

Regarding the large scale military exercise of the Russian armed forces in the Western and Central Military Districts, we found the response provided by the Russian Federation under the Vienna Document unsatisfactory and not contributing to increasing transparency and confidence with regard to addressing the legitimate concerns of Ukraine in a situation of escalating risks for its security. In particular, that the information provided had not dispelled the concern by Ukraine and other participating States.

We urge the Russian Federation to agree without delay to the Ukrainian request to hold consultations within the relevant bilateral and multilateral formats. We will ask for full use of the Vienna Document and other OSCE instruments and bodies in order to address any concerns related to the activities of its military forces that negatively affect the stability in the region and in Ukraine.

We share the view expressed by the Ambassador of Ukraine at the Permanent Council yesterday that the potential of the OSCE should be fully applied in the present situation. In this context, we thank Ukraine for the invitation, in accordance with the Vienna Document, to all

participating States to take part in a visit to Crimea in Ukraine in the period from 5-12 March 2014 to help to dispel concerns about the military activities of the Russian Federation in that area. We encourage all participating States to consider positively this request.

The EU calls for a peaceful solution to the crisis in full respect of the principles of and obligations under international law and with full compliance with OSCE norms and commitments. We remain ready to engage and promote any constructive dialogue with all parties aimed at reaching such a peaceful solution and will continue our engagement in international facilitation efforts, including on proposals for international observation and mediation, and the European Union Foreign Affairs Council yesterday has welcomed a possible OSCE fact finding mission in this regard. We emphasise the importance of an international presence on the ground and we thank the Chairmanship and the Executive Structures for their swift action and Concept Paper in preparing for an OSCE Monitoring Mission to be deployed as soon as possible. We stand ready to continue to actively take part in the discussions on and contribute to such a mission.

The OSCE politico-military instruments such as the Vienna Document, the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the OSCE Document on SALW should be fully respected and serve as

a basis for expanding the OSCE support for Ukraine in the current circumstances.

We continue to strongly support the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship. We welcome the OSCE Secretary General's as well as the OSCE autonomous institutions' and the OSCE Project Coordinator's active engagement and efforts in support of the stability and security in Ukraine. We reiterate our opinion that the OSCE can offer a range of important assistance in areas such as election support and monitoring, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, human rights, media freedom, judicial reform as well as assistance in the first dimension of security, including police. We welcome the invitation extended to ODIHR to observe the presidential elections on 25 May and ODIHR's swift response and early action. The implementation of the ongoing OSCE projects in the first dimension of security should also be pursued.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and MONTENEGRO*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA, 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.