

ENGLISH only



Thank you.

It is very pertinent and timely that we have this special session of the Permanent Council today and we thank the Swiss chairmanship for their initiative.

We fully share the statement by the EU. In addition, we would like to make the following points:

We welcome Ambassador Guldemann in his capacity of Envoy of the CiO and the heads of the institutions present today. We are grateful for the information provided about the efforts already under way and the proposals made by the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the other parts of the organization.

Also today, The Foreign Ministers of the European Union as well as the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Delegates are meeting in special session on the same subject. This underlines the importance of the crisis and the need for urgent and coordinated response by the international community.

I use this opportunity therefore to inform that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe has sent a special envoy to Kiev for support of the Ukrainian Parliament. He is tasked with assisting the Parliament of Ukraine with legislation in the areas of democracy, rule of law and human rights. This should help also with ensuring appropriate input from the Venice Commission and ODIHR. The wide array of concrete and operational possibilities of our organization should be used fully and rapidly, concerning all stages of dialogue, mediation, monitoring, and support.

In this wider context, we welcome the proposal for a monitoring mission to Ukraine. We are ready to start working immediately on the basis of the non-paper put forward by Canada last night, if necessary also in coordination with efforts in the context of the UN.

We equally welcome that the proposal for an international coordination mechanism or contact group made by the Swiss CiO already last week is gathering wide support.

This crisis is a paramount challenge to our common strive for peace and security. Constructive dialogue and trust must be restored by the response we are able to agree in all these fora. We owe this not only to our principles and commitments, but first and foremost to the people of Ukraine.

Thank you.