

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 764
Vienna, 1 October 2014****EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities and the
Situation in Ukraine**

The European Union and its Member States welcome the agreement reached in Minsk on 19 September 2014 on the modalities of the implementation of the ceasefire in Ukraine.

We take good note of the fact that the recent Minsk agreements have so far resulted in a significant decrease in the level of violence, the ongoing release of hostages, and the adoption by the Ukrainian Parliament of laws on amnesty and interim self-governance status for certain districts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

At the same time, all elements of the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum must now be fully implemented by all sides. A lasting ceasefire remains key to the success of the current efforts to reach a sustainable political solution, based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian state border and withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces illegally operating on Ukrainian territory should be integral part of such a solution. The European Union stands ready to support any efforts relating to the implementation of the Minsk agreements, in particular through the OSCE.

The FSC and its instruments have an important and proper role to play to this end. We again encourage all participating States, in particular the Russian Federation, to maximise the level of political will, transparency, good faith and constructiveness when implementing OSCE politico-military commitments. The full implementation of these instruments could help facilitate the achievement of a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine.

In this context, we took due note of the answer provided by the Russian Federation to the request for explanations of unusual military activities, in particular the concentration of

Russian troops in the vicinity of the administrative line between the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Kherson district, put forward by Ukraine in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011.

We recall on this occasion that the European Union strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and will not recognise it. Consequently, we do not accept the position expressed by the Russian Federation in its reply to the aforementioned request for explanations as well as its unilateral decision to extend its zone of application of CSBMs to the Ukrainian region of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**}, and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

^{*} The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{**} Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.