



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 1008 Vienna, 15 July 2014

EU Statement on the Violation of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine

Mr Chairman, the EU remains alarmed by the situation in parts of eastern Ukraine and the continuing hostilities. We note with the gravest concern the latest developments on the ground in eastern Ukraine, including the reports of a flow of significant new quality and quantity of arms and equipment across the border from Russia into Ukraine, the reported explosion on the Russian side of the border, and attacks by illegal armed groups on targets in eastern Ukraine, and regret the deaths reported. We recall that the activities of the armed pro-Russian separatists are the root cause of the serious human rights violations and suffering experienced by the civilian population in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. We urge the Russian Federation to actively use its influence over the illegal armed groups and stop the flow of weapons and militants across the border in order to achieve rapid and tangible results in de-escalation.

We reiterate our support for President Poroshenko's Peace Plan. We recognise Ukraine's right and obligation to uphold law and order on its territory and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We welcome the important role of the trilateral contact group with the participation of ambassador Tagliavini on behalf of the OSCE Chairmanship. We expect the contact group to continue its work and that substantial progress in reaching an unconditional and mutually agreed sustainable ceasefire can be made. We also welcome the high-level dialogue between Ukraine, Germany, France and the Russian Federation and their Joint Declaration of 2 July. While

repeating the call for the full implementation of the steps set out by the European Council on 27 June, we regret the limited tangible progress so far.

We continue to express our strong support to the ongoing efforts of the OSCE and the Chairmanship-in-Office. The SMM plays a crucial role and we look forward to the decision on the extension of the Mission's mandate. We call for all OSCE monitors and other OSCE staff to have safe and free access throughout Ukraine to fulfil their mandate.

We share the deep concern expressed by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in connection with the continuous attacks of the separatist forces against television channels in Luhansk and Crimea which effectively endanger the safety of journalists and violate the right of people to freely receive information.

Mr Chairman, on 11 July, in view of the gravity of the situation in eastern Ukraine, the Council of the European Union expanded the list of persons subject to targeted sanctions for actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, bringing the number of individuals subject to sanctions to 72. The two confiscated entities in Crimea and Sevastopol remain under asset freeze. The Council stressed that it will continue to closely monitor and assess the situation. We recall that the European Council will meet on 16 July.

The EU stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We urge Russia to recognise these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, to stabilise the situation and reverse moves that contravene these principles. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.