



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 55-th joint FSC-PC plenary meeting  
(17 April 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

ENGLISH only

**Distinguished ambassadors,  
Dear colleagues,**

I wish to start by thanking the Maltese and Swiss Chairmanships for convening this joint meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation and the Permanent Council during the spring recess.

Throughout February-March 2014 the world witnessed the most blatant since the Second World War violation of norms of international law. Part of the territory of Ukraine has been occupied by the country, which had undertaken to be Ukraine's "strategic partner", "guarantor" of its security and which concluded the bilateral treaty on "friendship" with Ukraine. The Russian Federation which undertook the obligation to respect and guarantee independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, flagrantly violated the imperative norms of international law, as well as basic principles of coexistence of states, enshrined in the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act, bilateral and multilateral international agreements.

Taking into consideration the annexation by the Russian Federation of the AR of Crimea, Ukraine was and remains extremely concerned by the continuous concentration of the Russian military units alongside the borders of Ukraine. Levels of military weapons and equipment of the Russian Armed forces substantially exceed those, which were located in the western regions of the Russian Federation in the pre-crisis period.

The inspection activities carried out by Ukraine in the Russian Federation in accordance with the Vienna Document on confidence and security building measures and pursuant to the Open Skies Treaty confirmed the unfounded increase of concentration of the Russian Armed Forces in the immediate vicinity of the Ukrainian border.

In this context efforts to make use of the mechanisms of the Chapter III of the Vienna Document in order to dispel concerns of the OSCE participating States and to clarify real intentions and purpose of the ongoing Russian military activities are highly relevant. The Ukrainian side is convinced that the Russian partners should be also interested to reach this aim, since they claimed on numerous occasions that they are not carrying out any military activity that may pose a threat to its neighbors. Vienna Document is an instrument which is aimed, in particular, at dispelling concerns, which Ukraine has all legitimate grounds for.

Let me remind again that paragraph 16 of the VD determines that "Participating States will ... consult and cooperate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled activities of their military forces outside their normal peacetime locations which are militarily significant, within the zone of application for CSBMs and about which a participating State expresses its security concerns". In accordance with this provision Ukraine has the right to assess from its own perspective what constitutes militarily significant activity and seek clarifications

notwithstanding the existing threshold for prior notifications. In the current security environment Ukraine exercises its right to request the explanation from the Russian side about any unusual activities of its armed forces in the proximity to the Russian-Ukrainian border.

On several occasions (53-rd and 54-th Joint FSC-PC meetings, 748-th, 749-th, 750-th, 751-th and 752-th FSC plenary meetings) Russian Federation provided insufficient information, which failed to clarify real reasons for stationing Russian Armed Forces alongside the borders with Ukraine or refused to participate in relevant consultations and official meetings on this top priority issue.

In particular, in response to the Ukrainian request CBM/UA/0042/F10/0 formal brief response of the Russian side was received (CBM/RU/0044/F11/0) with reference to the previous notification which also did not contain any concrete information.

Such reaction demonstrates the Russian Federation's disengagement from dialogue to strengthen transparency, confidence and security, which are the goals of the Vienna Document.

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to react to assertions of the Russian Federation concerning allegedly "positive" results of the observation flights and inspections on its territory, which seemingly demonstrate ordinary "peaceful" character of in fact active military activities alongside the borders with Ukraine.

The Ukrainian side states with full responsibility that photo-documents from two observation flights, carried out in March-April demonstrate visibly the increase of the air-forces (battle aircraft and helicopters) on the air-fields of the Russian Federation close to Ukraine. Besides, according to the results of inspections carried out in accordance with the Vienna Document on the territory of Belgorod and Kursk Oblasts on 18-21 March 2014, bordering Ukraine, inspectors observed the deployment in the field and combat training of three battalions belonging to the 76-th assault-landing and 106-th air-landing divisions, which have their permanent stationing in Tula, Ryazan and Pskov. Notably, their planned combat training is carried out normally far from the borders with Ukraine.

That is why the Ukrainian side continues to have well-founded questions about the tasks of the elite units of the Russian Armed Forces in the unknown location for them outside their normal training areas, in close vicinity to the border with Ukraine and about the real purpose of their stationing in this region. Thus the questions of high pertinence remain:

- What is the purpose and anticipated duration of these activities?
- What is the composition and strength of the Russian military forces involved in these activities?
- To which units and formations do these deployed forces belong?

In this context Ukraine reiterates its strong disappointment with the Russian Federation's decision not to participate in the consultations, initiated by the USA in accordance with paragraph 16.3 (planned for 4 April) , at 54-th joint FSC-PC plenary meeting, held on 7 April and in consultations, initiated by Canada and Estonia, planned for 15 April 2014, and in today's meeting.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

The Security Service of Ukraine has a considerable amount of evidences, confirming that in the Eastern part of Ukraine large-scale military aggression is taking place, which is carried out by intelligence and diversion groups belonging to the General Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. This groups have machine-guns and grenade launchers, which are a military issue to the Russian Armed Forces, they seized a number of premises belonging to the local law enforcement units, local state administrations and self-government. According to some estimates, their total personnel strength is 1 battalion. The Delegation of Ukraine has shared the photo-materials with other delegations.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

The Delegation of Ukraine has regularly informed the Permanent Council of the subversive activities of the Russian special services in the eastern Ukraine, serving as evidence of Russia's involvement in instigating and coordinating the separatist actions on the ground.

The situation in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where Russian subversive groups supported by local separatist forces are operating, tends to spiral in a menacing direction.

Phone interceptions and detained agents of Russian military intelligence provided us with valid proof of the Russian special operations troops being deployed on the Ukrainian territory and of their involvement in killing Ukrainian officer Hennadiy Bilichenko in Slovyansk last Sunday. On top of all violations of international law and OSCE principles, the Russian Federation acts immorally sending its subversive groups to destabilize the situation and kill Ukrainians.

Presence of heavily armed illegal paramilitary groups on the ground and continuing seizure of administrative buildings in Donetsk, Luhansk, and in a number of cities of the Eastern region of Ukraine challenge the national unity of Ukraine as well as pose a serious threat to the lives of local residents.

Let me reiterate once again that what is happening now in the Eastern Ukraine falls under qualification of terrorist activities, which necessitate an adequate response.

In this regard the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine launched a full-scale anti-terrorist operation with the participation of army, police and security service units, aimed at protecting local population from those who use arms and act as terrorists. It aims at safeguarding national unity, disbanding and disarming illegal paramilitary formations and thus protecting local population, public law and order.

We are also extremely concerned over the incident with the monitoring team of the OSCE special monitoring mission which is reported to have happened in Kramatorsk on April 15, 2014. It is yet another evidence of policy of double standards by the Russian Federation. Such incidents impede the activities of the OSCE Mission, whose deployment to Ukraine was also supported by the Russian Federation. We condemn the actions at that roadblock in relation to OSCE personnel and expect that condemnation will also be expressed by Russian Federation.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

The Ukrainian authorities do their utmost to address the strong expectations on realizing interests of the people, who have their ethnic and cultural identities, strengthening of Ukrainian regions' economic development that would create more jobs and prosperity. As we have already informed the Permanent Council, amendments to the national Constitution, now under preparation in the Ukrainian Parliament, will contain provisions for decentralization of power and increase the competencies of the regions.

We also stand ready to enhance the dialogue with the people of the eastern regions of Ukraine as an important instrument to de-escalate the current situation and foster social cohesion in the country. Their interests can be addressed through democratic process. In particular, free, fair and transparent early presidential elections on 25 May serve as an important tool in meeting the expectations of Ukrainians, who will choose among 23 candidates, representing the whole political spectrum and different Ukrainian regions.

We are fully committed to conducting free, fair and transparent early Presidential elections on 25 May in accordance with OSCE commitments and international standards.

We are taking all necessary measures to facilitate the work of the international observers and to create respective conditions for their activities.

**Distinguished ambassadors,  
Dear colleagues,**

In view of the ongoing violation by the Russian Federation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence and unity, its disengagement from the negotiating process with a view to finding peaceful solution of the crisis, unwillingness to engage in the risk reduction mechanisms of the Vienna Document, we propose to consider what additional steps might be taken by our Organization to convince the Russian Federation to abide by its OSCE commitments and international obligations.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**