



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 757 Vienna, 11 June 2014

EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities and the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States remain deeply worried by the tense and volatile situation in Eastern Ukraine and strongly reiterate that the efforts by all sides should aim at solving the crisis politically, putting an end to violence and tensions. In this respect, we are encouraged by the efforts undertaken by the Ukrainian President towards resolution of the crisis.

We continue to pay due attention to the expected withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the Ukrainian border to their permanent bases. Fully completing this withdrawal, while allowing for its reliable verification, can constitute a positive step towards de-escalation of the critical situation in Eastern Ukraine.

Furthermore, we reiterate that the Russian Federation should take as a matter of priority all necessary measures to stop the infiltration of armed foreign fighters, weapons and ammunition through the Ukrainian state border and have taken note of the order issued by the Russian President in this regard.

However, climate of trust and confidence should be re-established without delay by applying in good faith the whole range of OSCE politico-military instruments in their confidence-building and especially conflict-prevention function. The FSC was established to discuss implementation of existing politico-military commitments and CSBMs or negotiate additional ones. We would welcome focusing our discussion on how trust and confidence can be re-established by making full use of the FSC mandate.

To this end, we expect the Russian Federation to refrain from further threat or use of force, exercise strict restraint in carrying out military activities in the areas bordering

Ukraine and provide verifiable information about on-going and planned military activities in those areas, even if they do not fall under the provisions of the Vienna Document. We also reiterate our demand to the Russian Federation to immediately revoke the authorisation given by the Federation Council to use armed force on Ukrainian soil.

We call upon the Russian Federation to publicly condemn the criminal acts of armed pro-Russian separatists and exercise its influence among them to lay down their weapons, renounce violence, and immediately and unconditionally release the eight abducted monitors from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission.

As recently stated by the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, failure to address these questions is dangerously fuelling the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. We therefore call on the Russian Federation to seriously pursue a political solution.

The European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We call upon the Russian Federation to do likewise. The European Union reiterates its strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and will not recognise it.

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

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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