



EUROPEAN UNION

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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1018
Vienna, 9 October 2014**

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

The European Union is deeply concerned that, notwithstanding the ceasefire agreed last month, shooting and shelling has continued in eastern Ukraine, resulting in the death of civilians, including a Swiss ICRC staff member. We express our condolences to the families of the deceased and we recall the imperative of full implementation of the Minsk protocol and the Minsk memorandum.

We note the SMM's reports of ceasefire violations at or around areas of strategic significance, including Donetsk Airport and the transport hub of Debaltseve . We also note the SMM's assessment that the violations seem to reflect attempts to gain strategic advantage either before the Minsk memorandum is implemented in full or winter sets in, with the pro-Russian separatists for instance attempting to take the power plant in Shchastya north of Luhansk city We call on all parties to comply fully with the ceasefire agreement.

A lasting ceasefire remains key to the success of the current efforts to reach a sustainable political solution, in line with President Poroshenko's Peace Plan based on respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian international border and withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces illegally operating on Ukrainian territory should also be integral parts of such a solution. Moreover, we strongly urge all parties to ensure immediate, safe and unrestricted access for international investigators to the MH17 crash sites.

We welcome the ongoing efforts of the Trilateral Contact Group and note the launch the Joint Centre on Control and Coordination with the participation of

representatives of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. We would be interested to hear more from the parties about the planned operations and mandate of the Joint Centre and its relationship with the OSCE SMM.

We note with concern that the SMM has observed that Russian and Ukrainian military personnel participating in the Joint Centre had badges with OSCE Logos, which they prepared to wear. We condemn any unauthorised use of OSCE insignia. We call on all parties to ensure free and safe access for SMM monitors, including in all parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, and express our concern about recent incidents where access was prevented.

The European Union strongly supports the holding of early parliamentary elections throughout Ukraine on 26 October in line with international standards and calls on all parties to ensure the elections can take place without external interference. We welcome the deployment of a substantial OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the elections. We expect that the Ukrainian authorities will draw on ODIHR's recommendations after the Presidential elections in May. We commend the Ukrainian government for its efforts to facilitate the participation of internally displaced persons and citizens from Crimea in the elections. We regret that the elections will not be conducted in Crimea, but welcome that citizens from this area of Ukraine can vote in other parts of the country. We call for their right to participate in the election process to be fully respected and facilitated and for the freedom of movement of voters.

The EU underlines the importance of holding early local elections in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts within the Ukrainian legislative framework. Regarding the announcement of the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk and Luhansk 'People's Republics' that they intend to hold so-called 'parliamentary elections' in November we recall that the European Union does not recognise these so-called 'elections'.

We welcome the third meeting of representatives of Ukrainian and Russian journalists' unions organised on 26 September in Vienna by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. We join the participants in condemning the killing, beating and detention of journalists in eastern Ukraine. We share the Representative's concerns about hostile behavior against the media in Crimea

including intimidation by the de-facto authorities in Crimea of the newspaper of the Mejlis.

We are deeply concerned about reports of enforced disappearances of Crimean Tatars in Crimea that seem to be part of a campaign of harassment and intimidation. We note that at least one of the recently disappeared persons, 25-year-old Edem Asanov, has reportedly been found dead. We also remain deeply concerned about the continuing detention of the Ukrainian pilot Nadiia Savchenko, Ukrainian film producer Oleh Sentsov and all other persons who have been abducted from Ukrainian territory and are illegally detained in Russia. Reports from Nadiia Savchenko's defence lawyer that her detention conditions in Moscow have deteriorated are particularly disturbing. We call for the immediate release of all Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia.

The EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, 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*, 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 and GEORGIA 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.