

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 987  
Vienna, 6 March 2014**

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**EU Statement on the Situation in Ukraine**

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The European Union is deeply disturbed by yesterday's events in Crimea, in which both UN and OSCE officials were prevented from performing their tasks. We continue to believe that their work in Crimea and elsewhere in Ukraine is crucial to a de-escalation of tensions, and is in the interest of all involved.

Following events in Ukraine, the President of the European Council has decided to convene an extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State or Government today to discuss the situation in Ukraine and the EU's reaction.

At the Foreign Affairs Council on 3 March, the European Union strongly condemned the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council on 1 March for the use of armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. The Foreign Affairs Council stated that these actions are in clear breach of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. The Council called on Russia to immediately withdraw its forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. We urge the Russian Federation to

agree without delay to the Ukrainian request to hold consultations within the relevant bilateral and multilateral formats.

The European Union continues to call for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine in full respect of the principles of and obligations under international law and with full compliance with OSCE norms and commitments. We remain ready to engage and promote any constructive dialogue with all parties aimed at reaching such a peaceful solution and will continue our engagement in international facilitation efforts, including on proposals for international observation and mediation.

We reiterate our view about the importance of an international presence on the ground throughout Ukraine, including Crimea, and we thank the Chairmanship and the Executive Structures for their swift action and Concept Paper in preparing for an OSCE Monitoring Mission to be deployed as soon as possible. We welcome the discussions on this issue and urge all participating States to engage, without delay, in negotiations on the modalities and way forward. The EU stands ready to actively take part in these discussions and to contribute to such a mission.

We continue to strongly support all efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship, the OSCE executive structures and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. We believe that these efforts are contributing to stabilising the situation.

We highly appreciate the visit to Ukraine, including to Crimea, by the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Personal Envoy of the Chairmanship-in-Office, Ambassador Guldemann. We furthermore thank the Secretary General for presenting the Programme on National Dialogue in Ukraine that would

secure an immediate international presence in locations throughout Ukraine.

We welcome the invitation extended to ODIHR to observe the presidential elections on 25 May and ODIHR's swift response and early action.

Likewise, we welcome the invitation to ODIHR to conduct a human rights assessment, including in Crimea, in order to establish facts and circumstances relevant to events that have taken place since November 2013. We look forward to studying the results of this assessment and its recommendations.

We underline the importance of granting free access to all parts of the territory of Ukraine for OSCE representatives and urge everyone on the ground to engage constructively with the OSCE.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as GEORGIA, ANDORRA, and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.