



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1007 Vienna, 10 July 2014

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

The European Union would like to inform the Permanent Council about the high-level coordination meeting in Brussels this Tuesday on international support to Ukraine. At the meeting, the European Union, Member States, Ukraine as well as other donor countries – United States, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland – international organisations, including the OSCE, and International Financial Institutions discussed support for Ukraine's economic and political stabilisation. The meeting was an important opportunity to exchange views and discuss the key short and medium term priorities for Ukraine, the relevant donor coordination structures, and the possible next steps towards a future Donors and Investors Conference to be held later in the year.

Mr Chairman, the EU remains alarmed by the situation in parts of eastern Ukraine. We reiterate our support for President Poroshenko's Peace Plan. We take note of last week's decision to resume operations in eastern Ukraine. We welcome the Ukrainian government's commitment to reinstate social services and restore infrastructure in the areas where the Ukrainian government has regained control. We recognise Ukraine's right and obligation to uphold law and order on its territory and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. 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. The kidnapping by militants in eastern Ukraine, subsequent transfer to the territory of the Russian Federation and detention there of Ukrainian military pilot Nadiya

Savchenko raises many questions with regard to Russia's respect for its international obligations. We call for the immediate release of Ms Savchenko.

We welcome the important role of the trilateral contact group with the participation of ambassador Tagliavini on behalf of the OSCE Chairmanship. We hope that substantial progress in reaching an unconditional and mutually agreed sustainable ceasefire can be made following its meeting on 6 July. 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 recall that the European Council underlined its commitment to reconvene at any time for further significant restrictive measures. Preparatory work on targeted measures has been undertaken so that further steps can be taken without delay.

Mr Chairman, the situation in Crimea remains an issue of pressing concern and we share the assessment of the potential for escalation as presented by the HCNM earlier today. We learnt with deep regret about the recent decision to bar Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the Crimean Tatars' self-governing body the Mejlis, from entering Crimea for five years. We also express our concerns about the decision of Moscow's Lefortovo District Court this week to extend the pre-trial arrest of Ukrainian filmmaker Oleh Sentsov who was detained along with three other Ukrainian nationals in Crimea in May on suspicion of planning alleged terrorist acts.

We join the Representative for Freedom of the Media in condemning the attack on the editorial office of the Vesti newspaper in Kyiv on July 5 and call for a swift investigation to bring those responsible to justice.

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, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA 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.