



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 770 Vienna, 12 November 2014

#### **EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities**

---

The European Union and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the sharp deterioration of the security situation in some parts of Eastern Ukraine resulting in high number of casualties, including the tragic incident on 5 November where two children were killed and four injured after shelling of a school stadium in Donetsk. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and welcome Ukraine Foreign Minister's call for an immediate investigation of this incident.

The recent reports by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine about convoys in separatist held areas with substantial amounts of heavy weapons, tanks and troops without insignia moving westwards represent a very worrying development. It is imperative to avoid any re-escalation of hostilities. All parties must now show utmost restraint, strictly abide by their commitments under the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, and reengage in view of finding a peaceful sustainable solution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We call on the Russian Federation to fully assume its responsibilities in this regard, including by preventing any further movement of military, weapons or fighters from its territory into Ukraine, and withdrawing any troops, weapons and equipment under its control from Ukraine, as well as by exercising its influence to ensure that the separatists implement in good faith the obligations assumed in Minsk.

In this respect, we have noted the latest Ukrainian request for explanation of unusual military activities in the border areas under the Vienna Document with reference number CBM/UA/14/0108/F10/O as well as the answer provided by the Russian Federation with reference number CBM/RU/14/0154/F41/O. We would like to point out however that the latter answer does not contribute at all to dispelling security concerns such as those stemming from reports that the Russian Federation is again strengthening its military

presence at the border with Ukraine. All politico-military instruments at hand, the Vienna Document in particular, should be used fully and in good faith in order to enhance military transparency and help promote a peaceful solution to the crisis.

We strongly condemn any impediment to the SMM monitoring activities, including by means of UAVs, and urge all parties to provide all necessary conditions to allow the SMM to fulfil its tasks fully and without any restrictions in accordance with its mandate and the Minsk Agreements. In this regard, we are especially concerned about military grade jamming of SMM UAVs in the Donetsk region, as well as of the fact that another SMM UAV flight had to be cancelled following a flight risk assessment.

Moreover, the European Union calls on all parties to facilitate distribution of humanitarian aid to populations in need on the basis of non-discrimination, cooperation with established humanitarian actors and with the consent of Ukrainian authorities. We will continue our endeavours to provide humanitarian assistance to all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

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 European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup>, 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, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

---

<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.