



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 758 Vienna, 18 June 2014

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

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The European Union and its Member States are deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in some parts of Eastern Ukraine and, in particular, by the shooting down by pro-Russian separatists of a Ukrainian military aircraft claiming the lives of 49 servicemen.

We would therefore like to draw participating States' attention to the following statement issued by the President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy on 14 June 2014:

"Today, after the downing of a military aircraft transporting 49 persons, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the Ukrainian people and Government for all the lives lost in the dramatic violence which is affecting the eastern provinces of the country and which continues to worsen.

While legitimate force must always be used with restraint, there is no doubt that the Ukrainian Government has an obligation and a duty to restore order within its borders. There is equally no doubt that the armed fighters that are terrorising and disrupting the lives of citizens in Ukraine, are enjoying external support, including arms supply and reinforcement through foreign fighters.

As a neighbouring State Russia bears a primary responsibility in ensuring that any such traffic and external support through its borders is immediately stopped. Any other attitude, and public ambiguity in relation to what is happening, is not compatible with Russia's international obligations within the OSCE or the UN."

Drawing on President Van Rompuy's statement we would like to recall that on numerous occasions we have clearly spelled out, here in Vienna, our firm conviction that the OSCE politico-military toolbox has the potential to tackle crises as complex as the one in Ukraine, if applied fully and in good faith.

Unfortunately, as evidenced by the last disturbing events in Eastern Ukraine, ranging from continuing attacks against law enforcement forces to massive kidnappings and blatant violations of the state border of Ukraine, our appeals have not produced thus far the expected effect of initiating a meaningful dialogue within the FSC.

We are therefore compelled to reiterate that we expect the Russian Federation to show further political will and abide by its politico-military commitments and obligations thus allowing for immediate, tangible and irreversible de-escalation of the security situation in and around Ukraine. This includes constructively engaging in bilateral and multilateral dialogue - including in the FSC - in order to address legitimate security concerns and re-establish trust and confidence in the OSCE area.

Indeed, sustained efforts are needed to start restoring trust and confidence in the OSCE area which are severely challenged by the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the continuing destabilisation in Eastern Ukraine as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council to use armed force on Ukrainian soil; the latter is not yet revoked despite the insistent calls of Ukraine, the European Union and other OSCE participating States.

In conclusion, we reiterate that 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.

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\* 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.