



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 986 Vienna, 3 March 2014

EU Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I would like to once again express appreciation for your responsiveness and swift reaction. This crisis is evolving rapidly, and extreme dangers are mounting.

The European Union strongly condemns the Russian Federation's clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The military action in Ukraine, by forces of the Russian Federation, is a breach of international law and contravenes Russia's commitments under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine of 1997, and the legal framework regulating the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

The unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine must be respected. We call on the Russian Federation to stop its military actions and withdraw its forces back to their permanent bases, and refrain from any interference in Ukraine.

We want to commend the restraint shown by the new government of Ukraine, their sense of responsibility, and their determination not to respond to provocations. We support their efforts to calm the situation, and their commitment to addressing matters pertaining to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Dialogue must be restored without delay. In this regard, we strongly support the Ukrainian request for consultations including under the Budapest Memorandum, and urge the Russian Federation to respond to it positively.

We believe that any legitimate concern can be addressed through a political dialogue guided by the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. We reiterate our call on all parties concerned to behave with the greatest extent of self-restraint and responsibility, and to decrease the tensions.

Ukraine has activated OSCE mechanisms in the politico-military sphere. We urge the Russian Federation to engage constructively and in good faith in these consultations, and make use of all OSCE platforms and instruments, in order to address the risks of its military activities negatively affecting the stability of the region and in Ukraine.

We strongly support the efforts of the Chairmanship. We appreciate this opportunity to exchange views with Ambassador Guldemann, and the representatives of the Secretariat and our Institutions. It is essential in our view that the Chairmanship is present in Ukraine and liaises with the other actors present in the field, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

In this context, we welcome the fact that the High Commissioner is now in Kyiv. We believe she has an important role to play in the current circumstances, and we are confident that she will enjoy the freedom of movement and the access she needs to carry out her tasks independently and efficiently. Likewise, we welcome the engagement of ODIHR, the upcoming visit of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the further proposals of the activities of the Project Coordinator's office. These impartial actors must be granted access to the whole of Ukraine, and we urge those who have seized de facto control of part of Ukrainian territory to let them carry out their task unimpeded.

We remain convinced that the OSCE has an important role to play, and commend the leadership that our Chairmanship has displayed. We stand ready for the deployment of an International Monitoring Mission, and measures to facilitate a structured dialogue among the relevant parties.

Extreme, outdated geo-strategic competition is dangerous and ultimately self-defeating. Moving away from this is precisely what our efforts are about.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY members of the European Economic Area, as well as 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.