

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SVETOSLAV SPASSOV
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
AT THE 986th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 March 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of my delegation I would like to first thank you for convening our meeting today. Full support from our side for all the efforts and initiatives of the Swiss Chairmanship to find a peaceful way out of this grave situation we are all facing today.

Bulgaria is deeply concerned by the on-going escalation of tensions, and by the decision of the Federation Council of Russia to authorize the use of military force on the territory of Crimea in Ukraine.

We call on the Russian Federation to refrain from any further actions that would violate the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

It is imperative that the political process in Ukraine be based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and involvement of all Ukrainian citizens in building the democratic future for their country. We trust the new government will spare no effort to normalize and stabilize the situation there, and to resolve all issues, including those pertaining to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, through a genuine political dialogue based on democratic values.

We strongly believe that OSCE norms, principles and commitments should be fully and unconditionally respected and implemented by all participating States, and that any concerns should be addressed through political means and peaceful dialogue.

In this critical situation all the tools and instruments of our Organisation must be put into use. In this regard, we fully support the Canadian initiative to urgently dispatch an OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We also support the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the institutions, including the on-going HCNM's mission in Ukraine.

We call on all sides to show restraint both in their statements and actions and to immediately seek a peaceful resolution of the crisis through dialogue and measures for de-escalation the tensions in Crimea.

It would be to the benefit of Europe as a whole that a peaceful solution of the crisis be reached to enable stabilization, rule of law, democratic development and economic recovery of a unified and undivided Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.