



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1025 Vienna, 13 November 2014

EU Statement in response to the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Ilkka Kanerva

The European Union warmly welcomes the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, H. E. Ilkka Kanerva to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation. As this is Mr Kanerva's first visit to the OSCE Permanent Council in this function, we would also like to congratulate him on his election and wish him every success.

The EU fully acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the PA to the Organisation and the important role of its members in spreading and implementing OSCE goals and principles. Mr Kanerva, your visit comes at a crucial time for the OSCE where one participating State, the Russian Federation, continues to violate the most basic principles and commitments on which the OSCE is founded and that lives are lost in parts of eastern Ukraine as a result of this. We urge Russia to turn away from the de-stabilising course it has set; to uphold the fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times by acts and public pronouncements. We recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and call upon Russia to do likewise. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it. We welcome Mr Kanerva's strong engagement in the crisis in and around Ukraine and note the PA's recent resolutions and frank discussions in this regard as well as the launching of a series of special meetings on this crisis including Parliamentarians from Russia and from Ukraine.

We appreciate the PA's engagement in promoting our common commitments notably in the area of democratic elections, human rights and fundamental

freedoms, including the protection of human rights defenders and the rule of law. In their role as members of their national Parliaments, members of the PA have a key role in making sure OSCE principles are implemented and respected in national legislation. Moreover, with their dialogue across borders, members of the PA can advance confidence-building and conflict resolution in the OSCE area. We also strongly support the OSCE PA's longstanding commitment to the engagement of civil society in OSCE activities.

We have taken note of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's discussions and the resolutions and declarations adopted at its 23rd Annual Meeting in Baku including those adopted as possible inputs to the Ministerial Council in Basel.

We also take note and will study the PA's announced contribution to the Helsinki+40 process.

We welcome the continued co-operation between the PA and ODIHR on election observation. This, as mandated by MC Decision 19/06 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE, is one of the most important areas of cooperation between ODIHR and the OSCE PA. We believe that constructive cooperation strengthens the overall international election observation efforts and we look forward to seeing this co-operation continued in the future.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, members 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.