



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019

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#### EU Right of Reply – Closing Session

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Madam Chair,

In reply to the statement made by the Russian Federation, we would like to make three points:

1. The position of the European Union regarding the crisis in and around Ukraine is well known. The European Union recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We urge Russia to uphold these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, to stabilising the situation and reversing moves that contravene these principles. We strongly condemn the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces since February 2014 and the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the Russian Federation, which we will not recognise. The European Union will remain committed to fully implement its non-recognition policy, including through restrictive measures.
2. Let me also remind the Russian delegation that in Moscow 1991, the participating States agreed that the “*commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension [...] are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.*” The very purpose of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is to discuss the implementation of our OSCE commitments, which also include the freedom of peaceful assembly.



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3. The European Union remains committed to combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, based on the universality of human rights, as reflected also in the OSCE commitments.

Thank you.