



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 769 Vienna, 5 November 2014

#### **EU Statement on the Security Situation in and around Ukraine**

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The European Union and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the continued fighting in Eastern Ukraine over the past week and recall that the strict observation of the ceasefire by all parties is an indispensable prerequisite for the restoration of peace and stability.

We expect all parties to fully engage and swiftly implement all commitments under the Minsk documents. We underline the Russian Federation's responsibility with regard to the full implementation of the ceasefire, the withdrawal of illegal armed groups, military equipment, fighters and mercenaries as well as the securing of the Ukrainian-Russian state border with permanent monitoring under OSCE verification.

In this context, we note with concern the reports of the OSCE Observer Mission on the continued crossing of the Russian-Ukrainian border by persons in military-style clothing and reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to prevent any movement of weapons and fighters from its territory into Ukraine.

We welcome the SMM deployment of OSCE UAVs as a useful contribution to the SMM's monitoring work. We therefore note with concern the recent attacks on these UAVs by illegal armed groups with jamming equipment and the use of anti-aircraft weaponry. We call on all parties to ensure secure conditions for the free operation of SMM UAVs in all parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including along the border with the Russian Federation. Any possible military UAV Support Mission to SMM must not restrict the use of the civilian SMM UAVs in any way.

The European Union will not recognise the so called presidential and parliamentary elections in Donetsk and Luhansk "People's Republics" and consider them a new obstacle on the path towards peace in Ukraine. Early local elections in accordance with

Ukrainian law, as foreseen in the Minsk Protocol, are the legal and legitimate means of renewing the democratic mandate of the local authorities in these parts of Ukraine.

We also note with concern that at least one unauthorised humanitarian convoy has been dispatched recently by the Russian Federation to Eastern Ukraine and are of the opinion that once again fundamental international humanitarian law principles have not been observed in this regard. This way of proceeding constitutes also a breach of Ukrainian territorial integrity and sovereignty. We underline once again the need to address the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, in full respect of international humanitarian law and principles and with the clear consent of the Ukrainian Government as a first responder.

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 European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup>, and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.