



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 767 Vienna, 22 October 2014

#### **EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities and the Situation in Ukraine**

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The European Union and its Member States take good note of the reduction in violence as a result of the ceasefire but regret and condemn the continued violations of it in a number of places in Eastern Ukraine that have led to civilian casualties during the past week. We recall that all provisions of the Minsk agreements must be fully implemented by all sides.

We recall as well that strict observation of the ceasefire is indispensable for the much needed restoration of peace and stability in the East of Ukraine. Human rights violations must also be prevented and fully investigated.

We expect the parties' full engagement and swift implementation of all commitments under the Minsk documents, which we see as a step towards a sustainable political solution of the crisis in and around Ukraine based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We underline the Russian Federation's responsibility in this context, and call for the withdrawal of illegal armed groups, military equipment, fighters and mercenaries, as well as for the securing of the Ukrainian-Russian state border with permanent monitoring under OSCE verification.

As stated earlier we attach great importance to the FSC instruments which could contribute to de-escalating tensions and dissipating concerns over military activities thus helping to facilitate a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. We urge therefore all participating States, in particular the Russian Federation, to make full use of the OSCE politico-military toolbox.

In particular, we have noted Ukraine's request for notification and clarification of military activities in the border areas and their compliance with the Vienna Document 2011 as well as the answer provided by the Russian Federation. We are compelled to reiterate

therefore that the announced return of more than 17.000 Russian troops from training areas in the Rostov region to their permanent bases is a welcomed step, only if fully implemented and verified under the Vienna Document.

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