



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 752 Vienna, 9 April 2014

EU Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union (EU) and its Member States have taken note of the final report on the Danish-led Vienna Document inspection and of the statement by Ukraine drawing attention to the unusual military activities of the Russian Federation. We would also like to use today's meeting as an opportunity to reiterate the key points of the EU statement delivered just two days ago at the Joint FSC PC meeting on 7 April.

We regret the Russian Federation's decision not to attend that meeting. We consider this as a missed opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on legitimate security concerns stemming from the Russian military activities around Ukraine and to implement in good faith the politico-military commitments under Chapter 3 of the Vienna Document.

We reiterate our support for the requests recently put forward in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Vienna Document by Ukraine and the United States of America for clarification of unusual military activities of the Russian Federation in its Western and Southern Military Districts. We wish to remind colleagues that we have repeatedly asked the Russian Federation to provide detailed and comprehensive information on the redeployment of troops in these areas.

Unfortunately, the explanations we have been given so far by the Russian Federation both here in Vienna and in Moscow remain unsatisfactory as they fell short of our expectations to address in a comprehensive manner strong security concerns pertaining to the objectives, the nature and the strength of the Russian military units deployed in sensitive areas adjoining Ukraine.

We are firmly convinced that all participating States, including the Russian Federation, should follow the open and transparent attitude of Ukraine, and make full use of the existing CSBM and CAC instruments, not only in letter but also in spirit, in order to stabilise the situation, and re-establish security, trust and confidence in the region.

The Russian Federation should make important steps in this direction by hosting voluntary visits and inspections under the relevant provisions of the

Vienna Document, exercising strict restraint in carrying out any military activities in the bordering areas with Ukraine and sharing information about on-going and planned military activities in those areas, even if they do not fall under the provisions of the Vienna Document.

In the same vein, we encourage all participating States to show vigilance and make full use of all relevant OSCE politico-military instruments and to further support continued Vienna Document activities to this end.

We remain concerned about the seizure of the Ukrainian military bases and warships in Crimea through acts of armed assaults. We call on the Russian Federation to continue to return seized military equipment to Ukraine fully and without exception or damage. We condemn the killing of a Ukrainian military officer in Crimea as well as any act of violence against other Ukrainian officials in Crimea. We strongly urge for fair and transparent investigations into these incidents so that those responsible are brought to justice.

Yesterday, the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton reiterated the EU's strong support for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The High Representative called against any further destabilisation of Ukraine, whether from the inside or the outside. The EU stands by the Ukrainian government in its efforts to stabilise the situation.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries NORWAY and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and MOLDOVA, align themselves with this statement.

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

** Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.