



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 768 Vienna, 29 October 2014

EU Statement on Alleged Use of Cluster Munitions in Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States would like to state the following on the issue of the alleged use of cluster munitions in Ukraine which has been raised during this meeting.

We remain deeply concerned about the continued impact of the conflict on the civilian population. In this context, we take note of the reports by Human Rights Watch on the alleged use of cluster munitions in Eastern Ukraine. The allegations need to be investigated in an independent and transparent manner. We also take note of the explanations of the Ukrainian side denying the use of such weapons, and Ukraine's readiness to cooperate with Human Rights Watch towards clarifications of the allegations, as well as explanations of the OSCE SMM and ICRC which have not witnessed the use of such weapons.

If confirmed, the use of cluster munitions would be of great concern due to grave consequences including from unexploded remnants. Protection of civilians' lives by all is of utmost importance in this as in other conflicts. Restoring law and order through swift and comprehensive implementation of all commitments under the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum by all parties will be key in this context.

The European Union supports the humanitarian goal of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We call upon all parties to refrain from the use of indiscriminate weapons, such as cluster munitions.