



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 992 Vienna, 27 March 2014

EU Statement on Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States remain deeply concerned at the ongoing situation in Ukraine, in particular Crimea. We recall the European Council Conclusions of 20 March 2014. There is no place for the use of force and coercion to change borders in Europe in the 21st century. Russia's actions are in clear breach of the Helsinki principles. We also recall that the Conclusions stated that any further steps by the Russian Federation to destabilise the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional and far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas between the European Union and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Russian Federation, on the other hand.

We reiterate our concern at the increasing Russian military activity, the assaults on Ukrainian military bases and the kidnapping of Ukrainian military personnel in Crimea. We also express our deep concern about the numerous reports of human rights violations. Tensions between the peninsula's communities are on the rise and media freedom is under siege.

We commend the measured response shown so far by Ukraine. We reiterate the need for Russia to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the government of Ukraine with a view to finding a political solution to the crisis for the benefit of all Ukrainian citizens.

The European Union welcomes the adoption of a decision to deploy a Special OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. From the outset of this crisis, we called for an early deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, including Crimea.

We do not accept the statement made by the Russian Federation following the adoption of this decision, alleging that Crimea is not part of Ukraine. Crimea is part of Ukraine. The European Union remains committed to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has a mandate to work throughout Ukraine, including Crimea. We do not recognise the illegal referendum in Crimea, which is in clear violation of the Ukrainian Constitution. Nor do we recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. Rather, we reiterate our strong condemnation of this act, which is in contravention of international law, including the most fundamental OSCE principles.

The European Union commends the Swiss Chairmanship and the OSCE Executive Structures for the substantial work they have undertaken to prepare a Special OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the swift steps taken since last Friday to deploy it. We want to thank the Chairmanship for their dedicated efforts over recent weeks to build consensus on the decision. We also highly appreciate the constructive engagement of the Government of Ukraine in the process leading up to its adoption. The fact that this organisation, thanks to the efforts of our CPC colleagues, manages to be present on the ground so quickly, is very encouraging and significant.

We expect all participating States to cooperate with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and that its members will have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine to fulfil their mandate. We stand ready to

contribute to this mission with staff and other resources, including funding, and we encourage all other participating States to do likewise.

The Mission has our full support, as too do the many other ongoing efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Executive Structures and the Project Coordinator in Ukraine, including support for a national dialogue. We also welcome the activities that have been conducted within the framework of the Vienna document. All these efforts show that the OSCE has an important and valuable role to play throughout Ukraine in helping to stabilise the situation and solve this crisis.

We welcome the Ukrainian government's commitment to ensure the representative nature and inclusiveness of government structures, reflecting regional diversity, to ensure the full protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, to undertake a constitutional reform, to investigate all human rights violations and acts of violence and to fight extremism.

We wish to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the signature by the European Union, its Member States and Ukraine of the political provisions of the Association Agreement, which will lead to a closer relationship between the European Union and Ukraine.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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