



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 756 Vienna, 4 June 2014

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

The European Union and its Member States took note of statements by the Ukrainian delegation on the latest worrying developments with regard to the security and military situation in and around Ukraine as well as of the report on the Sweden-led VD inspection.

As stated previously, sustained efforts are needed in order to start restoring trust and confidence in the OSCE area which are severely challenged by the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the continuing destabilisation in Eastern Ukraine as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council to use armed force on Ukrainian soil; the latter is not yet revoked despite the insistent calls of Ukraine, the European Union and other OSCE participating States.

We are deeply concerned about the increased presence of Russian foreign fighters in Eastern Ukraine and their active participation to illegal military actions, such as last week's attack on the international airport of Donetsk. Their presence as well as the possession and the massive use of SALW and heavy weapons by pro-Russian separatists serve no other purpose than to further destabilise the situation in Eastern Ukraine. We strongly reiterate that the efforts by all sides should aim at solving the crisis politically, putting an end to violence and tensions, including disarmament of all illegal armed groups and amnesty to those who have rendered their arms voluntarily and have not committed serious crimes.

We keep urging the Russian Federation to use its leverage on the armed separatists to de-escalate the situation in Eastern Ukraine, including the release of the abducted civilian observers from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission. The Russian

Federation should as a matter of priority take all necessary measures in order to prevent the violation of the state border and the airspace of Ukraine and stop the crossing of Russian foreign fighters and weapons into Ukraine.

Equally, we expect the Russian Federation to continue the withdrawal of armed forces from the Ukrainian border to their permanent bases, without further delay. Such move can produce positive de-escalatory effect on the volatile security situation in Eastern Ukraine only if fully completed and verified.

Therefore, we once again urge the Russian Federation to demonstrate political will and tangibly commit itself to the peaceful settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine by fully honouring its international obligations, both in letter and spirit, including these in the politico-military field. In particular, we ask the Russian Federation to increase transparency by voluntary over-quota multinational measures according to the Vienna Document.

The European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We call upon the Russian Federation to do likewise. 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 candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO 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.