



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1026 Vienna, 20 November 2014

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#### **EU Statement on the Violation of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine**

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The EU remains gravely concerned about the situation in parts of eastern Ukraine as well as in Crimea as highlighted in our previous statements today. We are particularly alarmed by the recent heavy shelling and by reports of convoys moving across the Russian border into separatist held areas with substantial amounts of heavy weapons, tanks and troops without insignia. We note from the SMM's reporting that the days 'the convoys were sighted were followed by intensified outgoing artillery shelling' from the territory de facto controlled by Russian-supported separatists. We also note the SMM observation of men in camouflage 'with Russian Federation flag patches and other badges on their uniforms' in Luhansk city. Furthermore, we note the observation of an "armoured truck carrying an anti-aircraft machine gun" with a "Russian flag on it".

Having assessed the situation on the ground, the EU Foreign Affairs Council last Monday initiated the preparation for a decision by the end of this month on additional listings targeting separatists. The EU will continue to closely follow the situation on the ground and will act accordingly. We reiterate our call for a halt to the continuous violations of the ceasefire, a withdrawal of all illegal and foreign forces, mercenaries and military equipment, as well as for securing the Ukrainian-Russian state border with permanent monitoring by the OSCE. In this context, we expressed our position on the need for a swift expansion and extension of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints earlier today. Full and effective control by Ukraine of its borders is essential and we call on Russia to respect it.

We reiterate the important role of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in supporting the implementation of the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum and the need to provide the SMM with the resources needed to fulfil these tasks. We remind all parties concerned of their responsibility for a safe environment for the OSCE monitors and equipment, including UAVs. In this context, we express our deep concern about the incident yesterday where shots were fired in the direction of a SMM convoy near the area of Mariinka as well as the incident Tuesday where warning shots were fired at a SMM vehicle in the outskirts of Debaltseve. These incidents are completely unacceptable. We once again call for the monitors to have free and unrestricted access, including to all parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, to fulfil their mandate. We deeply regret that armed pro-Russian separatists do not provide the SMM with such access. We reiterate our interest in hearing more about the activities of the Joint Centre on Control and Coordination (JCCC) and its relationship with the SMM and call for more transparency.

We welcome the recent OSCE-brokered access to important parts of the MH17 crash site and reiterate our call on all States and actors to ensure full access and provide full co-operation with the ongoing independent international investigations. It is essential to safeguard the integrity of these international investigations. We underline that those directly and indirectly responsible for the downing of MH17 will be held accountable and brought to justice.

Mr Chairman, we continue to follow the humanitarian impact of the crisis and the rising number of affected persons with great concern. We call on all parties to respect international humanitarian principles and to facilitate the work of international humanitarian organisations. The EU and its Member States will continue to provide assistance. The impact on the civilian population should not be exploited for military or political ends. Assistance should be delivered through the appropriate channels in agreement with the Ukrainian authorities. We deplore that the Russian Federation has once again conducted so-called “humanitarian” convoys without adhering to international law, norms and principles.

Mr Chairman, the EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We urge Russia to recognise these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, to stabilise the situation and reverse moves that contravene these principles. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ 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.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania 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.