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EU Statement on the Security situation in and around Ukraine

Mr. Chairman, since our last discussion in this Forum four weeks ago the security situation along the line of contact has been highly volatile, marked by ebbs and flows in ceasefire violations as well as the use of Minsk-proscribed weapons, including MLRS. Civilians continue to suffer utmost from the deteriorating security situation. The EU and its Member States are deeply concerned about reports of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure and property, including shelling of critical infrastructure, such as the Donetsk Filtration Station. Over the last week in the period of 4-10 June the SMM corroborated reports of 13 civilian casualties on both sides of the contact line, including children. This is highly regrettable - any single civilian casualty is too much. We urge all sides to comply with the obligations they have signed up to. We welcome the Foreign Ministers meeting in the Normandy Format on 11 June in Berlin and are hopeful that the meeting and steps to follow will give new momentum to the Minsk process. We reiterate our call on all sides to disengage, withdraw heavy weapons and step up efforts on comprehensive mine action, in order to ensure lasting ceasefire as an important step toward a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments. We underline Russia's responsibility in this regard including its considerable influence over the separatists it backs to achieve progress. We also reiterate our concerns over Russia's withdrawal from the JCCC and again call on the Russian Federation to return to the JCCC. We also call on Russia and Ukraine to re-establish the functionality of the JCCC and to strengthen cooperation within its framework.

Mr. Chairman, we very often hear calls in this hall to provide concrete examples of Russia's military support to the separatists. Let us in this context draw the attention of the Forum to the SMM observation on 3 and 7 June, when the radio intelligence system TORN was spotted in non-government controlled Debaltseve and Molodizhne. In the same week an SMM LR UAV experienced jamming in the vicinity of Debaltseve. We call on the Russian delegation to explain the presence in Ukrainian territory of this

sophisticated technology, available in the Russian Federation's military arsenal but never in that of Ukraine, and why it is being used to target SMM UAVs. We recall that we have still not received from the Russian delegation an adequate explanation for the presence in Ukraine of other highly specialized pieces of Russian military equipment observed by the SMM such as the Zhitel jamming device, the Orlan-10 drone and the indiscriminate and destructive TOS-1 Buratino.

Mr. Chairman, the SMM's mandate which calls for full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine including along the Ukrainian-Russian border and on the Crimean peninsula, must be respected and all targeting and obstruction of the SMM's technical equipment must stop. Unfortunately, over the past four weeks we have witnessed numerous impediments to the SMM's work: these include actions putting the lives of our monitors at risk despite security guarantees provided by the sides; restrictions to the SMM's freedom of movement; systematic denial of access by separatists to the uncontrolled Ukrainian-Russian state border; as well as jamming and targeting of SMM UAVs, including by a surface-to-air missile system on 9 June in non-government controlled Ukraine. On 15 June in non-government controlled area, surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft gun rounds were fired in direction of an SMM long-range UAV flying over Betmanove. We strongly condemn these attacks on SMM equipment. The operational, security and financial consequences of these obstructions must be assessed and the parties responsible for any damage, destruction or loss of SMM UAVs should be held accountable, including politically and financially.

Mr. Chairman on 24 May, the 75th Russian Convoy entered Ukrainian territory at the Donetsk Border Crossing Point, as reported by the OSCE Observer Mission. We deeply regret that, once again, this happened without a full inspection by the Ukrainian border guards and in violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. This does little to allay concerns about the possible military nature of the transported cargo.

We call on all sides to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honour their commitments in full. We underline Russia's responsibility in this regard and once again call on Russia to use its considerable influence over the separatists it backs, to meet these commitments in full. We reiterate our deep concern regarding information about the presence of military equipment and personnel from Russia in the conflict zone. We call on Russia to immediately stop providing financial and military support to the separatists. The ceasefire must be respected. All Minsk-regulated weapons must be withdrawn. All foreign armed formations, military equipment and mercenaries must

be removed from Ukraine. Re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its state border is essential.

We recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and call 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 the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it.

The Candidate Countries, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.