



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 983
Vienna, 6 February 2014**

EU Statement on Ukraine

The European Union remains deeply concerned about recent developments in Ukraine and continues to urge all actors to seek, through an inclusive dialogue, a democratic solution to the current political crisis that would meet the aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

We continue to believe that the OSCE has an important and valuable role to play in assisting Ukraine in overcoming the political crisis. This organisation has much to offer in this regard. We strongly support the Chairmanship's efforts, and we welcome its offer of support, drawing on the OSCE's expertise. We encourage the Chairmanship to continue its close coordination with all actors, including other international organisations such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

The European Union is deeply alarmed by the deteriorating human rights situation, including violence and cases of intimidation and torture. We deplore violence in all circumstances and call on all sides to exercise restraint. We further call on the authorities to investigate thoroughly and transparently all acts of violence, including those against Auto-Maidan organiser Dmytro Bulatov and the deaths of several Maidan protesters, including Yuriy Verbytskyy, Serhiy Nihoyan, and Mikhail Zhyznieski. Journalists also seem to have been disproportionately targeted, and we again share the concerns highlighted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on 22 January 2014. We remain deeply concerned about the increasing number of missing activists. All unlawfully detained people have to be released and perpetrators brought to justice.

It is the authorities' responsibility to take all necessary measures to address the current atmosphere of intimidation and impunity which allows for such acts to take place. We once again call upon the Ukrainian government to abide by its OSCE commitments.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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