



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 787 Vienna, 6 May 2015

#### **EU Statement on the Security Situation in and around Ukraine**

---

The European Union and its Member States continue to strongly support the Minsk agreements as well as all diplomatic efforts aimed at their full implementation which is the only possible way forward to a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. Such a solution must be based on full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The establishment of the four working groups on security, political affairs, economic affairs and humanitarian affairs under the umbrella of the Trilateral Contact Group envisaged for 6 May offers the chance for a political process to fully implement the Minsk agreements and more sustainably de-escalate the situation.

At the same time, we are appalled by the information of incidents involving live fire near and at SMM patrols as well as cases of direct interference with their work and condemn all such attacks. We join the Chief Monitor's appeal to all sides to exercise maximum restraint and to do their utmost to ensure the safety and security of the SMM personnel as well as full and unhindered access to the territories under their control.

Likewise, we remain deeply concerned about the ongoing significant ceasefire violations in several hotspot areas in eastern Ukraine and the suffering inflicted to the civilian population. We regret with dismay that the fighting around Shyrokyne and Donetsk airport continues unabated for several weeks despite the SMM efforts to facilitate sustained ceasefire, including through the establishment of a demilitarised zone in Shyrokyne. We urge all sides, in particular the Russia-backed separatists, to stop immediately fighting, strictly and comprehensively respect the ceasefire and fully support the SMM de-escalatory efforts. We expect Russia to use its considerable influence over the separatists to meet their Minsk commitments in full.

In this context, we recall time and again that any attempts by the Russia-backed separatists to gain control of additional territory would constitute a violation of the Minsk agreements and will seriously undermine all efforts promoting a sustainable political resolution of the conflict.

We are equally worried about the continued build-up of forces and heavy weapons on the separatists' side of the contact line, as reported by the SMM, and their attempts to redeploy proscribed weapons within the exclusion zone for alleged training or military

parades purposes. We condemn any such attempts and share the SMM Chief Monitor's view that they constitute a violation of the Minsk agreements.

Ensuring effective and unrestricted SMM monitoring and verification is essential for the successful implementation of the tasks it is entrusted under the Minsk agreements. We are therefore compelled to call once again on all parties to complete without delay the withdrawal of heavy weapons in accordance with the Minsk Package of Measures. The Minsk signatories must provide the SMM with the full baseline information that would allow for credible and independent verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

We urge all signatories for the full implementation of all provisions of the Minsk agreements, including substantial and effective OSCE monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border. We recall that re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its state border with Russia remains of paramount importance.

Furthermore, foreign armed formations, military equipment, as well as mercenaries must be withdrawn from the territory of Ukraine as stipulated in the Minsk Package. We underline the Russian authorities' responsibility in this regard. We remain also deeply concerned about information of continued inflow of military equipment and personnel into Ukraine from the Russian Federation as well as about the continued Russian military build-up in the illegally annexed Crimean Peninsula.

The European Union reiterates its commitment to fully implement its policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. We stand firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and call upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup> 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.

---

<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.