

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 765
Vienna, 8 October 2014****EU Statement on Russian Unusual Military Activities and the
Situation in Ukraine**

The European Union and its Member States express concern about the intensification, in spite of the ceasefire in place, of fighting in some areas of Eastern Ukraine, which led last week to the tragic death of several civilians near a school in Donetsk as well as a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Many Ukrainian servicemen have also died in fighting over the past weeks, notably as a result of the continued shelling and assaults by separatist forces of the Donetsk airport.

We express our condolences to the families of the deceased, and recall that all elements of the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum must be fully implemented by all sides. Strict observation of the ceasefire is a necessary step for the much needed restoration of law and order in the East of Ukraine, both in view of preventing human rights violations and for the investigation of those that have occurred so far.

Furthermore, we recall that a lasting ceasefire remains key to the success of the current efforts to reach a sustainable political solution, based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian state border and withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces illegally operating on Ukrainian territory should be integral part of such a solution. The European Union stands ready to support any efforts relating to the implementation of the Minsk agreements, in particular through the OSCE.

In this context, we took note with concern of the SMM report 156/2014 of 3 October about a military officer from the Russian Federation wearing an OSCE patch without the authority of the OSCE on his uniform as well as carrying an ID card with the OSCE logo. We strongly condemn any unauthorised use of OSCE insignia.

The FSC and its instruments have an important and proper role in helping to facilitate a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. We keep encouraging therefore all participating States, in particular the Russian Federation, to show maximum level of transparency, political will and restraint with regard to military activities. Trust and confidence must be restored by open and constructive dialogue and consultations within the FSC and other relevant politico-military mechanisms, as well as by offering voluntary verification measures and additional information concerning military activities in the bordering areas via the OSCE channels.

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 European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members 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.