



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 1033 Vienna, 15 January 2015**

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#### **EU Statement on Russia's Ongoing Aggression against Ukraine and Violations of OSCE Principles and Commitments**

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The European Union remains strongly concerned about the situation in parts of eastern Ukraine and the renewed intensification, in spite of the ceasefire in place, of shooting and shelling. We deplore the tragic death of at least 12 civilians when a public bus in Donetsk Oblast was hit by a shell on Tuesday, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. This once again underlines the need for strict observation of the ceasefire that remains key to the success of the current efforts to reach a sustainable political solution.

While welcoming and supporting ongoing high-level diplomatic efforts, we note that the talks earlier this week in Berlin between the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, France and Germany did not generate the necessary progress in seeking a resolution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We take note of the statement issued after the meeting, including the reconfirmation that the full implementation of the Minsk agreements remains the basis for conflict solution, and the ministers' call on the contact group to meet in the coming days to make progress on the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, including the creation of the relevant conditions for an effective cease-fire, an agreement on modalities for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the continuation of the release of detainees.

More than four months have passed since the Minsk Protocol was adopted. From the very beginning, the European Union expressed its support for the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum. We deeply regret the lack of progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements as well as developments on the

ground that run counter to the word and spirit of these agreements. We continue to encourage all parties, in particular Russia, to actively engage in and fully implement the Minsk agreements in their entirety and without further delay. We call in particular for a full adherence to the ceasefire, withdrawal of illegal and foreign forces, mercenaries and military equipment as well as for securing the Ukrainian-Russian state border with permanent monitoring by the OSCE.

We support the Trilateral Contact Group's ongoing efforts to facilitate the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. We welcome the mutual release of detainees on 26 December following the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk. We continue to call for the immediate release of all illegally detained persons, including Nadia Savchenko and Oleh Sentsov and other Ukrainian citizens that are being illegally detained in Russia. We note with serious concern that Nadia Savchenko, Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, is on hunger strike to protest the terms of her detention and that she has been placed in solitary confinement.

We note with concern that heavy military equipment continues to be concentrated in areas where they are not permitted according to the Minsk Memorandum. For instance, a SMM UAV observed 28 tanks within 10 km east of the "line of contact" on 26 December. We deeply regret that Russian so-called "humanitarian convoys" continue to enter Ukrainian territory without the consent of or inspection by the Ukrainian authorities and without fundamental international humanitarian principles being observed. Developments continue to underline the need for full and effective control by Ukraine of its borders. We call on Russia to respect this.

Mr Chairman, the OSCE and its Chairmanship must continue to play an important role in promoting stability and contributing to a sustainable political solution in adherence with OSCE principles and commitments. We reiterate our strong support to the efforts of the OSCE and to the OSCE staff and monitors who are doing an excellent job, often under very difficult circumstances. We reiterate our call on all parties to ensure free and safe access for SMM monitors and UAVs, including in all parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts as well as along the border. We regret the continuing attempts at obstructing the operation of the

UAVs by “jamming” and shooting.

The EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We once again urge Russia to recognise by acts these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute 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.