



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 767-th FSC plenary meeting**

(22 October 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

**Mr. Chairman,**

The top level political meetings in Milan on 16-17 of October, on the margins of the Asia–Europe summit, proved the world’s solidarity with Ukraine, in particular concerning firm support of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine as well as of my country’s efforts to restore peace and stability in the east of Ukraine.

All parties to the negotiations in Milan, including the Russian Federation, acknowledged the importance of full implementation of the Minsk agreements, including holding of local elections in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions under the Ukrainian legislation. Special emphasis was made on the adherence to the ceasefire regime, providing for effective control of the Ukrainian-Russian border and liberation of all hostages.

For Ukraine, the key focus remains on consolidation of the cease-fire regime under OSCE monitoring, establishing permanent OSCE monitoring and verification on the Ukrainian-Russian border, withdrawal of Russian regular military units and illegal armed groups, fighters and mercenaries, military equipment from the Ukrainian territory and from the state border with Ukraine.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Ukrainian side fully observes the cease-fire regime, while we again witness violations on the part of the illegal armed groups, continuous attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian military, towns and settlements that continue to lead to loss of life.

Unfortunately, despite the cease-fire in place the security situation in Donbas since the last meeting of the FSC has not improved. Terrorists continued firing at positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 21 settlements, which resulted again in tragic losses: 10 servicemen and 6 local residents were killed, 35 servicemen and 9 local residents were wounded during the period of 15-20 October.

In the southern part of Donetsk region the activity of militants has increased. In particular, redeployment of military units of the Russian Federation was carried out towards Mariupol’. During 15-20 October the following facts of the cease-fire regime’s violations were registered:

- two columns of 10 pieces each, consisting of cars, buses and fuel trucks from Fedorivka, Rostov region of Russia, reached the vicinity of Novoazovsk region of Ukraine;
- a redeployment of 50 units of arms and military equipment from Novoazovsk towards Mariupol’;
- a concentration of Russian armored vehicles was marked near Shyrokyne, and militants about 1.5 thousand persons in the Chervonoarmiyske-Kozats’ke region;

- numerous violations by Russia of the airspace of Ukraine, including 20 cases of aerial reconnaissance by UAVs near Mariupol and 7 cases of violations at the administrative border between Kherson oblast and Crimea.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the participants of this FSC meeting a response of the Russian Federation (format F41) to the Ukrainian request (format F10) on detailed explanations concerning exercises that preceded the withdrawal of the Russian troops consisting of 17.6 thousand servicemen from Rostov oblast of the Russian Federation after the completion of their summer exercises. The Russian format F41 reads *and I quote*: “routine combat training activities of the Russian units undertaken within the training grounds of the South military district by their scale and way of conduct do not require any explanations under the VD 2011”.

In our view, the mentioned amount of the Russian servicemen participating in the military exercises in the vicinity of the Ukrainian territory is the subject of notification and invitation of international observers. We request the Russian side to provide explanations to delegations of the OSCE participating States on these exercises and their purpose.

In the context of seeking de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine, it is imperative that all parties to the Minsk arrangements, including the Russian Federation, implement them fully and in good faith.

We therefore again urge Russia to withdraw its troops and military equipment from Ukraine, to halt reinforcement of the terrorist groups with Russian weapons and mercenaries, to introduce effective control on the Ukrainian-Russian border under permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**