



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
On the Situation in Ukraine  
(1006<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 3 July 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In the past week we have witnessed significant developments in Ukraine.

In view of the hard realities on the ground, a successful and sustainable resolution of the ongoing crisis is crucial for Ukraine's future stability, security and prosperity. We hope that the deterioration of the security situation in Ukraine's eastern oblasts will not continue to worsen after the recent ending of ceasefire. We reiterate our view that the current crisis in and around Ukraine, including the illegal and illegitimate de facto situation in Crimea, should be settled through peaceful diplomatic means while respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity, independence, sovereignty and political unity in line with our shared OSCE commitments and international law. We strongly support President Poroshenko's Peace Plan and stand ready to contribute to all efforts aiming towards de-escalation in Ukraine.

We also remain convinced that a Ukraine-owned and led process of participatory national dialogue, reaching out to all of the country's regions and all segments of Ukrainian society, will be the most solid foundation for a post-crisis Ukraine. Combined with the process of constitutional reform, this dialogue will hopefully yield a consensus addressing the aspirations and concerns of all Ukrainian citizens.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have repeatedly drawn attention to the crucial role played by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission within the overall framework of our Organization's efforts towards ending the crisis in Ukraine. For the past month the plight of the eight SMM monitors abducted in Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts has been a source of grave concern to us all. It is therefore a very welcome development indeed that both groups of monitors have now been set free, unharmed and unconditionally, and are with their loved ones as we speak. We are greatly relieved that all eight monitors, among them one of our citizens, are in good health. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation goes out to the SMM leadership, the Ukrainian authorities, the Swiss Chairmanship and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts to secure the abducted monitors' release, and for the smooth handling of their evacuation, which was made possible through the Chairmanship's generous provision of air transport to both groups. We earnestly hope that this first highly regrettable instance of the abduction of OSCE monitors will also remain the very last.

We wish to take this opportunity to underline once again that the SMM requires unhindered and secure access to all regions of Ukraine and all groups of the population if it is to fully discharge its mandate. We reiterate our full support for the Mission, including its role in assisting the Ukrainian authorities in the implementation of the Geneva de-escalation measures.

This is a crucial time within the crisis in Ukraine. We all hope that events will be taking a steadily accelerating course towards peace and stability. This is also a moment where the need to extend the SMM's mandate is beginning to assume urgency. We are looking forward to the adoption of a decision to this end.

Thank you.