



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1017 Vienna, 18 September 2014

EU Statement on the Violation of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union welcomes once again the Minsk protocol and the ongoing efforts of the Trilateral Contact Group to support its swift implementation. We call on all sides to respect and fully implement the Minsk protocol. We remain hopeful that this will be a first step towards a sustainable political solution, based on respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian state border and the withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces illegally operating on Ukrainian territory should be integral parts of such a solution. We note with concern the incidents of shooting and shelling despite the ceasefire as reported by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and other sources. Moreover, we strongly urge all parties to ensure immediate, safe and unrestricted access to the MH17 crash site.

We have repeatedly condemned the aggressive acts by Russian armed forces on sovereign Ukrainian territory, and called on Russia to stop the supply of armour, weapons, and fighters across the border and to remove all personnel and equipment from Ukraine. We recall that strengthened EU sanctions against Russia entered into force on 12 September as a result of Russia's actions destabilising eastern Ukraine. At the same time, we have stressed the reversibility and scalability of our restrictive measures if the situation on the ground so warrants. The EU also strongly condemns incidents in which the Consulates General of the Czech Republic and Poland in Donetsk were broken into.

We are deeply concerned that a second Russian convoy of trucks recently entered Ukrainian territory, without the consent of or inspection by the Ukrainian authorities

and without fundamental international humanitarian law principles being observed. Accordingly, this way of proceeding was, in breach of Ukrainian territorial integrity and sovereignty. It runs counter to efforts aimed at de-escalation. The EU calls on all contributors, including the Russian Federation, to support the international relief effort led by the United Nations, in full recognition of the Ukrainian Government's role as a first responder.

Six months have passed since Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol on 18 March. In view of reports about so called local elections having taken place in Crimea and Sevastopol, we recall that the European Union does not recognise the legal framework within which these so called elections have taken place. We remain deeply concerned about the persistent reports coming out of Crimea of serious human rights violations, including killings, enforced disappearances, severe physical ill-treatment and arbitrary detention. These violations have most recently been highlighted by Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks following his visit to Crimea. We fully share the Commissioner's view that it is essential to create a sense of security not only for the Crimean Tatars, but also for ethnic Ukrainians and those who have expressed critical views of recent political developments. We express our concern about reports that Russian security forces have raided the assembly of the Crimean Tartars as well as the home of one of its members.

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