



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1021 Vienna, 30 October 2014

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

The European Union and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the continuing violations of the ceasefire agreed in Minsk. We note from reports by the Special Monitoring Mission that the serious fighting “appeared to be a continued effort on the part of separatist forces to take a number of strategic targets”. We call on them to fully comply with the ceasefire.

The Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum are steps towards a sustainable political solution to the crisis, which must be based on respect for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We expect the parties’ full engagement and swift implementation of all commitments under the Minsk documents, in particular with regard to the full implementation of the ceasefire, the setting-up of comprehensive border control arrangements and the holding of early elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in accordance with Ukrainian law.

We consider that the holding of the so-called “presidential” and “parliamentary” elections, called by the self-appointed authorities, would run counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk Protocol and disrupt progress towards finding a sustainable political solution in this framework. The EU will not recognise them. We deplore Minister Lavrov’s remarks about Russian’s forthcoming recognition of the elections. We urge Russia to use its influence to help pave the way towards local elections in accordance with Ukrainian law. This would be a highly welcome contribution to the implementation of the Minsk Protocol. We reiterate our call for immediate, safe and unrestricted access to the MH17 crash site.

The EU expects the Russian Federation to respect Ukraine’s national sovereignty

and territorial integrity and to contribute to the political stabilisation and economic recovery of Ukraine. The Russian Federation should assume its responsibilities for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. In particular, Russian authorities should prevent any movement of military, weapons or fighters from its territory into Ukraine. They should exercise their influence to ensure that the separatists implement in good faith the obligations assumed in Minsk. The Russian Federation should also support OSCE monitoring and verification efforts, including along the Ukrainian-Russian border.

The EU and its Member States remain fully engaged in support of a political solution to the Ukrainian crisis, including through contributions to enhance the OSCE monitoring capacity, scaling up their humanitarian assistance, and encouraging and assisting Ukraine in its process of reforms, in particular on decentralisation and protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

We note the decision by Russia to enter again a humanitarian consignment into Ukrainian territory. We call on all parties to support and facilitate without delay the work of international humanitarian organisations, in accordance with international humanitarian law and principles. Assistance should be delivered through the appropriate channels in agreement with the Ukrainian authorities. The delivery of humanitarian aid can only be carried out with due respect for the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Mr Chairman, we once again deeply regret the lack of progress towards substantial OSCE monitoring of the Ukrainian – Russian state border in line with the Minsk Protocol. We reiterate our call on the Chairmanship to actively consult participating States to address relevant issues related to monitoring of the state border. In order to contribute to an effective, comprehensive and bilateral control of the international border a significant expansion of the OSCE Observer Mission combined with monitoring of the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission is needed. The EU supports a significant expansion of the OSCE Observer Mission beyond the two present Russian checkpoints to all relevant checkpoints as well as full access to monitor areas between checkpoints, and calls on the Russian Federation to do the same. The extension of the Observer Mission at two Russian

checkpoints until 23 November must be used for discussions on a significant expansion.

We are deeply concerned about SMM reports that members of the Joint Centre on Control and Coordination (JCCC) are portraying the Centre as an “OSCE Mission to South-East Ukraine” by misuse of OSCE insignia and attempts to subordinate SMM monitors to the JCCC. This is completely unacceptable and jeopardizes the impartial SMM monitoring. We reiterate our interest in hearing more about the operations and mandate of the JCCC.

We welcome that the SMM has deployed UAVs as a useful contribution to the SMM’s monitoring work. We call on all parties to ensure secure conditions for the free operation of UAVs in all parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts including along the border with Russia. Any possible military UAV Support Mission to SMM must not restrict the use of the civilian SMM UAVs in any way. We regret that SMM monitors continue to be denied access to certain areas controlled by the armed separatists.

The EU condemns the deterioration of the human rights situation on the Crimean peninsula, in particular the persecution and intimidation of the Crimean Tatar community, including the cases of kidnapping, torturing and killing of young male Crimean Tatars, the eviction of the Mejlis from its premises in Simferopol and interrogations of its activists. Therefore we reiterate our call for full, free and unrestricted access for the missions of the OSCE, United Nations and the Council of Europe to the Crimean peninsula.

We remain deeply concerned about the continuing illegal detention in Russia of a number of Ukrainian citizens, including Nadiia Savchenko, and call for their immediate release. We are particularly concerned about reports that Nadiia Savchenko is being mistreated while being held at the Serbsky State Scientific Centre for Social and Forensic Psychiatry. We regret that her pre-trial detention has been extended until 13 February 2015.

The EU 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 UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, and GEORGIA 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.