



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 753-d FSC plenary meeting  
(7 May 2014 at 11.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,

As we are all aware in April 2014 three joint meetings of the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation and the Permanent Council were convened pursuant to the provisions of the Chapter III of the Vienna Document, namely 54-th joint FSC-PC meeting was held on 7 April, 55-th joint FSC-PC meeting - on 17 April, 56-th joint FSC-PC meeting on 30 April 2014. These meetings were held in view of the fact that previous steps envisaged in Chapter III “Risk reduction mechanism for consultation and cooperation as regards unusual military activities” of the Vienna document failed to produce satisfactory outcome. Throughout the entire month of April USA and Ukraine, Canada and Estonia, Ukraine by turns activated relevant mechanism of Chapter III of the VD taking into consideration militarily significant military activities of the Russian Armed Forces alongside the state border with Ukraine.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation decided not to participate in all these meetings, disengaging from dialogue that would allow to dispel serious security concerns, refusing to cooperate, thus demonstrating alarming disrespect to the OSCE as organization on security and cooperation, and to its decision-making bodies, one of which is designed for security cooperation. Three concrete questions were directed to the Russian Side concerning its unusual military activities alongside its state border with Ukraine which remain pertinent and unanswered:

- What is the purpose and anticipated duration of these activities?
- What is the composition and strength of the Russian military forces involved in these activities?
- To which units and formations do these deployed forces belong?

Since the Russian Side declared in its statement (document FSC.DEL/78/14 dated 28 April 2014) its readiness “ to discuss military aspects of the situation around the Ukrainian crisis within the Forum for security Cooperation and its working bodies, as well as in bilateral meetings, but not in connection with the mechanism of the Chapter III of the VD 2011”, we expect that this readiness will be confirmed by satisfactory clarifications of the Russian Side to specific questions, mentioned above, in the framework of this or next FSC plenary meeting.

Meanwhile, it should be stressed that according to our information in the 50 kilometers zone close to the border with Ukraine there are 18 thousand Russian troops, in 200 kilometers zone – additional 20 thousand Russian troops, in the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula up to 22 thousand. Some 50 battle and transport aircraft with 300 troops moved to Crimea from the Russian Federation.

On 30 April the following maneuvers of the Russian Forces military units were identified close to the state border with Ukraine:

- the town of Kamensk-Shakhtinsk, Rostov oblast: 100 “URAL”-type and “KAMAZ”-type heavy vehicles were observed in the compound of the 291 Central reserve base;
- 300 m away from the part of the state border with Ukraine (direction towards Chernihiv oblast) there was a military patrol consisting of 6 persons on board of one “URAL”-type heavy vehicle and one armored infantry fighting vehicle;

- in the village of Balky (the Russian Federation): there are up to 500 men, 6 “URAL”-type heavy vehicles, 6 “KAMAZ”-type heavy vehicles, 2 “ZIL-131”-type heavy vehicles and 1 minibus “GAZEL”. The last rotation of these pieces of military equipment took place on 29 April.

As of 29 April, army aviation flights were observed:

- by Luhansk oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border - 2 helicopters “Mi-8”;
- by Chernihiv oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border – 4 attack helicopters;
- 1.5 km away from the part of the Russian-Ukrainian border at Luhansk oblast 11 military men were observed landing from 4 helicopters “Mi-8”;
- by Sumy oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border - 2 helicopters “Mi-8”;
- by Donetsk oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border - 1 helicopter “Mi-8”;
- by Chernihiv oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border – 4 helicopters “Mi-8” were observed flying towards direction of the city of Bryansk (the Russian Federation);
- by Sumy oblast part of the Russian-Ukrainian border - 4 helicopters “Mi-8”.

According to our information, starting from 1 May 2014 all Russian troops close to the border with Ukraine are in full combat readiness.

Against the background of annexation of the integral part of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, continuous effect of the Decree № 48-FC “On the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine”, adopted by the Federal Council of the Russian Federation on 1 March 2014, such information is the source of great concern and preoccupation for Ukraine.

From Ukraine`s perspective, it is also obvious that by demonstrating its military power in the proximity to the border with Ukraine, Moscow attempts to influence the lawful actions of Ukrainian authorities, aimed at fighting armed criminal groups in some regions of eastern Ukraine, which commit terrorist crimes against law, public order, state and private property, including administrative buildings, threatening life and well-being of Ukrainian citizens, killing and kidnapping those who support unity and indivisibility of Ukraine.

These criminal groups possess not only small arms but also grenade-launchers, heavy machine-guns and MANPADs, latter being the very dangerous indication for any military expert. These people are well-trained to use these weapons, many types of their armaments are military issue in the Russian Armed Forces. The core of this terrorist group are acting or former Russian special servicemen, as well as armed separatists from Crimea, and mercenaries from the North Caucasus. The role of the Russian Side in supplying terrorists with arms and weapons, such as MANPADs should be further clarified and investigated, including by the international military experts.

Distinguished delegates,

While the Russian Federation concentrated its military units alongside the border with Ukraine and refused to host a voluntary visit on its territory pursuant to Chapter III of the VD, the Ukrainian side demonstrated highest possible level of military transparency by hosting a sequence of extra quota inspections on its territory. Thus, starting from 21 April 2014 Germany has been leading an observer mission in Ukraine under the terms of Chapter X of the Vienna Document. The mission team consisted of eight people, amongst them four Germans and four international guest inspectors from Denmark, Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic respectively. The inspection team of military observers was captured in the area, which relates to apparent concerns of Russia, and where inspectors could objectively clarify the activity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Simultaneously they could have got the unbiased impression and idea about those illegal armed groups. There is no doubt that the seizure and subsequent release of the inspectors were orchestrated from the well-known focal

point and intended to discourage participating-States from sending such missions to Ukraine, which we consider as a sign of solidarity and moral support in time of continuous Russian military pressure on the Eastern border of Ukraine.

Ukraine immediately condemned the seizure by armed militants of this international verification team and Ukrainian escort team sought their release. On 3 May 2014 we warmly welcomed the release of inspectors, commending concerted efforts of the Ukrainian authorities, law-enforcement bodies, Donetsk regional authorities, Russian mediator and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, which enabled such an outcome.

Intensive consultations and temporary stop of the antiterrorist operation of Ukrainian internal security forces were necessary to ensure the release of the hostages. We praise the courage, displayed by the members of both inspector and escort teams. From our perspective, their professional conclusions, pronounced, for example during the FSC Security Dialogue could have an added value for our discussion of the military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine with a view to bring the Russian Federation back to the faithful implementation of the OSCE Vienna Document both in letter and spirit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.