



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1054 Vienna, 27 May 2015**

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#### **EU Statement in response to CiO Special Representative Ambassador Tagliavini**

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The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Tagliavini back to the Permanent Council. We reiterate our strong support to her work within the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the OSCE Chairmanship. The Trilateral Contact Group must continue to play an essential role in promoting the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We thank Ambassador Tagliavini for providing us with an overview of the activities of the Trilateral Contact Group and its four sub-groups. Now is the time for all sides to demonstrate the political will to make the sub-groups effective and result-oriented. We call on them to make substantial progress in the next round of meetings scheduled for 2 June. We believe that the sub-groups through their contributions to the work of the Trilateral Contact Group should facilitate a political process towards the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, based on OSCE's principles and commitments and full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Mr Chairman, we remain deeply worried about the continued ceasefire violations as reported by the SMM. The ceasefire must be respected, heavy weapons withdrawn and foreign armed formations, military equipment as well as mercenaries removed from the territory of Ukraine in line with the Minsk agreements. We underline the Russian authorities' responsibility in this regard. We also expect Russia to use its considerable influence over the separatists to meet their Minsk commitments in full. Re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its border remains essential, especially in the context of information about continued inflow of military equipment and personnel into Ukraine from the Russian Federation. We recall that all hostages and illegally detained persons

related to the conflict in and around Ukraine should be released as stipulated in the Minsk package. This naturally includes Nadiya Savchenko and Oleh Sentsov and all other Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia and the illegally annexed Crimea.

The provisions of the Minsk agreements concerning the political process are also of major importance. This includes dialogue and agreement on modalities on and the holding of local elections in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in accordance with Ukrainian legislation and relevant OSCE standards and monitored by ODIHR. To this end, the Russia-backed separatist must cooperate fully with ODIHR, including by providing access and security guarantees to ODIHR staff, and refraining from putting forward new preconditions for holding local elections.

Mr Chairman, the EU recalls its unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We once again urge Russia to recognise by acts these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute 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.

Finally, we wish Ambassador Tagliavini success in her difficult endeavours and we call on all sides to support her efforts. She can continue to count on our strong support.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.