



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 748 Vienna, 12 March 2014

EU Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

The European Union (EU) and its Member States thank the FSC Chairmanship Malta, the 24th AIAM Chairs the United Kingdom and Greece, as well as all participating States for their active participation in this important OSCE event which was strongly marked by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

This year's AIAM was a clear demonstration of the pressing need to update the Vienna Document in order to ensure its relevance to existing politico-military realities, including in crisis situations, and its purpose as an efficient confidence-building and conflict prevention instrument.

Against this background and after having heard the statement by Hungary, we reiterate our strong concern that representatives of numerous OSCE participating States under paragraph 18 of the Vienna Document and the Ukrainian escort team have consistently been prevented from carrying out their duties in Crimea by armed personnel. We took note that the Vienna Document team produced significant evidence of equipment consistent with the presence of Russian Federation military personnel. Furthermore, we have noticed with consternation that on 8 March 2014 the physical security of representatives has been put at real risk by unidentified armed military personnel at a checkpoint near Armyansk.

We strongly condemn these acts which are clear indications of the refusal to cooperate and dispel serious concerns due to increased military activities by the Russian Federation in Crimea.

We reiterate our appeal to the Russian Federation, and to all others, to use their influence to help the delivery of constructive outcomes on the ground, including by allowing full and effective use of confidence-building and conflict prevention OSCE instruments such as the Vienna Document.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

** Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.