



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019

EU Right of Reply – Working Session 12

Mr. Moderator,

In reply to some remarks made during this session, we would like to reiterate our well known position on the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. We did not, do not and will not recognise it. We therefore regret the attempts by some participants of this meeting to use a legitimate opportunity for discussion and dialogue to make points relating to a situation that is in contradiction with Helsinki principles.

We also regret the attempts to whitewash the human rights situation in Crimea. Again, they have not succeeded. We remain deeply concerned about the dire situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol since its illegal annexation by Russia. Residents face restrictions of fundamental freedoms, the situation of persons belonging to national minorities is precarious and the Crimean Tatar community faces systematic persecution. We use this opportunity to call again for full compliance with international human rights standards in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as for full and unrestricted access to the peninsula for the SMM, OSCE institutions, as well as for all international human rights monitoring missions and human rights non-governmental organisations.

In reply to the intervention regarding the EU sanctions policy, we remind that since March 2014 the EU has progressively imposed restrictive measures against Russia and that these measures were adopted in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and the deliberate destabilisation of Ukraine.



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In addition, in reply to some remarks regarding the conflict between Russia and Georgia of August 2008, we reiterate our firm support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, as well as the policy of non-recognition and engagement concerning the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Thank you.