



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1035  
Vienna, 22 January 2015**

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**EU Statement on Russia's Ongoing Aggression against  
Ukraine and Violations of OSCE Principles and  
Commitments**

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The European Union appreciates the useful discussion we had on Tuesday in the Special PC and the fact that we were able to agree a Declaration on Ukraine. That meeting was a necessary reflection of the seriousness of the situation on the ground and the urgent need for negotiations. The deteriorating situation in parts of eastern Ukraine as a result of Russia's aggression continues to demonstrate the urgent need for a sustainable political solution. Any solution must be based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

Sadly, the situation on the ground has not improved in the last two days. We once again condemn the surge in violence and deplore the casualties, including many civilians. We particularly condemn the consistent use of civilian areas as firing positions by separatist forces as reported by the Chief Monitor of the Special Monitoring Mission at our last meeting two days ago. We note from the SMM's reporting that 30 or more Grad rockets that killed three civilians and wounded twelve others in Debaltseve on 19 January 'came from a western direction, the direction of "DPR"-controlled Horlivka.' We are concerned by the reports about further groups of illegal and foreign forces entering the Ukrainian territory from Russia. We call on all parties to show utmost restraint in order to protect civilians and to avoid any actions that might further escalate the situation. We deplore the reports of several casualties when a bus stop was shelled in Donetsk this morning.

The way forward remains clear. The Minsk Protocol and Memorandum must be fully implemented without further delay. We once again underline Russia's responsibility in this regard, both directly and through its influence with the separatists. We call in particular for full adherence to the ceasefire, withdrawal of illegal and foreign forces, mercenaries and military equipment, as well as for securing the Ukrainian-Russian state border with continuous monitoring by the OSCE. In this context we express our support for a swift expansion of the OSCE border mission as well as border monitoring by the SMM. Recent developments have again underlined the need for full and effective control by Ukraine of its borders. We call on Russia to respect this.

We support the efforts in the Normandy format to de-escalate the situation. We welcome the reaffirmation of the commitments in the Minsk memorandum of 19 September 2014 on the so-called "line of contact" and the withdrawal of heavy weapons in the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Normandy-format on 21 January 2015 in Berlin. These commitments need to be implemented immediately and we encourage all parties to do so. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the Trilateral Contact Group of Russia, Ukraine, and the OSCE Chairmanship. We repeat our call on Russia to engage genuinely and constructively and use its influence with the separatists. The Trilateral Contact Group needs to reconvene together with the other signatories to the Minsk agreements as soon as possible.

The humanitarian situation on the ground is a matter of increasing concern as highlighted by the SMM Chief Monitor and Ambassador Tagliavini at our last meeting. We repeat our call for full access for international humanitarian assistance to the separatist-controlled areas in accordance with fundamental humanitarian principles.

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.

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 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 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.