



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1031 Vienna, 18 December 2014

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#### **EU Statement on the Violation of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine**

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The European Union welcomes the significant decrease in the level of hostilities, as also reported by the SMM, since the initiative of President Poroshenko to hold "a day of silence" on 9 December. However, tensions are still high and we remain concerned by the continuing sporadic attacks, mainly towards positions of the Ukrainian army. We note the SMM reports about an understanding reached between the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) and representatives of the armed pro-Russian separatists concerning a withdrawal of heavy weapons. If implemented this would be a welcome step.

We once again express our support for the Trilateral Contact Group and we join the Chairperson-in-Office in calling for a resumption of consultations without further delay. We note that Ukraine has repeatedly called for resuming consultations. We continue to express our support for the work of Ambassador Tagliavini and welcome that she will remain in her current position.

Mr Chairman,

We are reaching the end of a difficult year: a tragedy for the people of Ukraine, and an ongoing crisis in eastern Ukraine. We have said the same things many times in this council. However, the situation has not fundamentally changed, and so we have no choice and must repeat once again our familiar themes.

The EU reiterates its support for the Minsk agreements, as a step towards a sustainable political solution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We urge all parties to fully implement them in their entirety without delay. We

once again underline the Russian Federation's responsibility in this context. We call in particular for a 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 permanent monitoring by the OSCE. Recent developments have again underlined the need for full and effective control by Ukraine of its borders and we call on Russia to respect it. We also call for the immediate release of all illegally detained persons, including Nadia Savchenko and Oleh Sentsov, and other Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia and in the occupied Crimea. We reiterate that a continued inclusive Ukrainian-led and Ukrainian-owned national dialogue will be important to consolidate Ukraine's unity and internal cohesion. The OSCE can play an important role in facilitating this dialogue.

Mr Chairman,

We deeply regret that Russian so-called "humanitarian convoys" continue to enter Ukrainian territory, without the consent of or inspection by the Ukrainian authorities and without fundamental international humanitarian principles being observed. The EU calls on all parties to support and facilitate access for national and international humanitarian aid, in accordance with these fundamental principles. In this context we welcome the humanitarian aid convoy to Ukraine organised by Poland with full conformity of international standards and in full cooperation with the respective Ukrainian authorities.

Following the recent report published by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea continues to be characterised by systemic human rights violations affecting, for the most part, the segment of the population, which opposed the unlawful March "referendum". We pay special attention to the cases of dozens of representatives of different religious communities who have been harassed or forced to leave the peninsula since March.

We continue to strongly support the efforts of the Chairmanship and the OSCE in Ukraine. We welcome the ongoing expansion of the SMM and progress made in establishing infrastructure to better provide safety and security for the increasing

number of monitors. We remain concerned by security incidents involving the SMM, including a recent incident where a SMM patrol was detained and threatened by armed pro-Russian separatists and another incident where a SMM patrol was caught up in shooting directed at Ukrainian military vehicles. We deeply regret SMM reports that the so-called “Donetsk Peoples Republic” severely limits the SMM’s ability to monitor events in the areas controlled by this group. We reiterate our call on all parties to ensure free and safe access for SMM monitors and UAVs, including in all parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts as well as along the border. We continue to support the activities of the autonomous institutions in regard to Ukraine, including the recent roundtable with representatives of Russian and Ukrainian journalists’ unions organised by the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

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.

We find the statement by Foreign Minister Lavrov that Russia has the right to deploy nuclear weapons to Crimea completely unacceptable.

Mr Chairman, at this last ordinary Permanent Council meeting during the Swiss chairmanship we would like to commend the Chairmanship for its leadership throughout this crisis and for its strong efforts in promoting stability and peace in Ukraine based on OSCE values, principles and commitments. We look forward to working with the incoming Serbian chairmanship on a return to respect for the fundamental principles of the OSCE and to build upon the efforts of the current chairmanship in resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine.

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.