



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1023 Vienna, 4 November 2014

EU Statement in Response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The European Union warmly welcomes UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Permanent Council. We welcome you also as a close friend of the EU and highly value the close EU-UN cooperation. This cooperation is built on a fundamental convergence of views and the common belief that relations among states should be rules-based and founded on universal principles.

Unfortunately, Mr Secretary-General, this approach to world affairs has recently been fundamentally challenged in the OSCE space. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilising actions in eastern Ukraine have seriously violated basic UN and OSCE principles and commitments. What is at stake are the established fundamental principles that have provided a solid cornerstone for the European security order and cooperation between states for many years. This is the larger issue we need to address even as we seek to ensure the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and a sustainable political solution based on respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Events in Ukraine have highlighted the importance of the OSCE and UN's respective roles and of the two organisations working together. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security relates well to the work of the UN. At the same time, we believe there is scope for further cooperation to improve strategic interaction. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE has a key role to play in addressing local disputes in the OSCE space. Resolution of the protracted conflicts in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains an urgent task.

Mr Secretary-General, we commend the United Nations' and your personal unwavering support for Ukraine in defence of the principles and spirit of the UN Charter. We join you in deploring the holding of the so-called 'presidential' and 'parliamentary' elections in parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions on 2 November. These so-called 'elections' run counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk Protocol and we will not recognise them. We count on your continued principled engagement on 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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.