

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1004
Vienna, 12 June 2014**

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

Mr. Chairman, following the inauguration of President Poroshenko last Saturday, we have new chances for hope. President Poroshenko has received a strong mandate to advance reforms and turn Ukraine into the modern and democratic country its citizens call for. A country where all will find their place, and different identities and minorities will be acknowledged and respected. As one step toward that, we look forward to the continuation of an inclusive, Ukrainian-led and -owned process of national dialogue with the participation of all relevant stakeholders in all regions of Ukraine and supported by the OSCE.

The European Union will continue its efforts to assist Ukraine in overcoming the crisis, and in promoting growth and development. Ukraine's sovereign choices, including stronger ties with the European Union, need to be respected. It is not a zero sum game. This relationship and its strengthening can benefit not just Ukraine but all its neighbours, including the Russian Federation.

Recently, we have witnessed some positive international developments, notably on the margin of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, including talks between Ukraine and the Russian Federation aimed at ending violence in Ukraine. In this context, we welcome the CiO's decision to send Ambassador Tagliavini to assist these talks. We continue to believe that we should use the full potential of the OSCE in the current situation.

Mr. Chairman, we hope these efforts will help address the dire and volatile situation in some parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts about which we remain alarmed. We continue to call on the Russian Federation to publicly condemn the criminal acts of violence and provocations by armed pro-Russian separatists; and call upon these groups to lay down their arms, and halt their criminal activities. Russia should withdraw its support to them, stop interfering in Ukraine, and take urgent action to halt the flow of illegal arms and fighters into Ukraine across the border. We welcome that the Russian authorities have issued instructions to strengthen control at the border. At the same time, violent attacks on Ukrainian border posts continue. We also reiterate our demand to Russia to immediately withdraw the mandate of the Federation Council to use force on Ukrainian soil.

Ukrainian authorities have the right and responsibility to uphold law and order. We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to maintain a measured approach in pursuing operations to restore law and order.

Mr. Chairman, the European Union continues to strongly condemn the abductions of civilian observers from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts on 26 and 29 May. Their detention is unacceptable. We reiterate our call for their immediate and unconditional release. We ask for all parties, in particular the Russian Federation, to use their influence to assist with this and to publicly call for their release at the highest political level.

We continue to strongly support the Special Monitoring Mission. It is playing a crucial role in Ukraine through its impartial and valuable reporting and was given a leading role in assisting Ukrainian authorities and local communities in the implementation of the de-escalation measures of the Geneva Joint Statement.

Mr. Chairman, the EU stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders,

and calls upon Russia to do likewise. We urge Russia to recognise these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, 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 European Union will be at Ukraine's side and remains ready to work with all those that share the objectives of democracy, peace, prosperity and stability.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.