



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1004 Vienna, 12 June 2014

EU Statement in Response to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, H.E. Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova

The EU and its Member States warmly welcome H.E. Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova back to the Permanent Council and thank her for her comprehensive report. Her report is being presented against the backdrop of dramatic developments in Ukraine that have had a major impact on the work of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU). We commend the PCU and its staff for their tireless efforts in working for the OSCE in Ukraine, including by supporting other OSCE structures, during a very challenging period.

On 27 May, the European Council highlighted the need for Ukraine to continue to reach out to the population and civil society of all regions; to conduct swift and inclusive constitutional and de-centralisation reforms; to continue reforms as regards the judiciary, the prosecutor's office and the security sector; and to continue the fight against corruption. We welcome that President Poroshenko has announced his intention to follow this path of reform. The OSCE has the potential, including through the PCU, to provide effective support to Ukraine as it tackles some of the urgent reform challenges currently facing it.

The PCU's "National Dialogue"-project, including support for the implementation of roundtables, is a prime example of how the PCU has responded to new developments and contributed to the OSCE's response in diffusing the crisis. We welcome President Poroshenko's intention to continue the process of national unity roundtables as expressed in his conversation with the Chairman-in-Office Didier Burkhalter on 7 June. We look forward to the continuation of an inclusive, Ukrainian-led and -owned process with the participation of all relevant stakeholders from all regions and supported by the OSCE.

We commend the PCU for adjusting its activities to reflect changing circumstances, including practical responses such as providing vests for journalists with a “press” logo to enhance their visibility during the protests in Kyiv and advancing election support activities due to the early Presidential election. We also note that a few projects had to be put on hold.

Mr Chairman, events in the last few months have underlined the importance of the PCU programmes on democratisation and good governance and on the rule of law and human rights, including in the field of elections, media freedom, civil society development, prevention of torture and ill-treatment, anti-corruption, and strengthening the judiciary. We believe these two programmes should be given higher priority in the overall work and budget of the PCU. A number of projects in the politico-military field are also important, in particular we support work on assistance in the social adaptation process of discharged military personnel and on arms control and explosive hazard reduction. We welcome the successful completion of the project on disposal of toxic rocket fuel component (mélange) in March and we support the follow-up project concerning rehabilitation of the sites.

We continue to believe that we should use the full potential of the OSCE in the current situation, including through a strong PCU presence, with the necessary human and financial resources to enable it to continue making a significant impact throughout Ukraine. We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU’s expertise and potential. We welcome the improved cooperation between the PCU and the Ukrainian government.

We underline that for all field operations, effective evaluation is essential to ensure efficient use of resources and aids the development of best practices and the process of lesson learning. We thank you for highlighting some of the key impacts made by the mission through its programmatic work in this reporting period.

We stress the importance we attach to close cooperation between OSCE structures and coordination with other international actors in order to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground in Ukraine.

In conclusion, we would like to commend Ambassador Jarbussynova and her staff for their dedication and hard work during difficult times in Ukraine. We wish Ambassador Jarbussynova all the best in her future work.

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

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.