



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 1009 Vienna, 17 July 2014

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

Mr Chairman, the European Union stresses once again its support for a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Ukraine, notably the urgent need to agree on a genuine and sustainable cease-fire by all parties to create the necessary conditions for the implementation of President Poroshenko's peace plan. We support the diplomatic efforts by Ukraine, the Russian Federation, France and Germany, as well as the joint Berlin Declaration issued by their Foreign Ministers on 2 July.

We remain alarmed by the further deterioration of the situation in parts of eastern Ukraine and the continuing hostilities. The EU condemns the continuation of illegal activities by armed militants in eastern Ukraine, including the occupation of public buildings, hostage taking and armed attacks against Ukrainian law enforcers and border guards. We urge the Russian Federation to actively use its influence over the illegally armed groups and to stop the flow of weapons and militants across the border, in order to achieve a rapid de-escalation.

The European Union regrets that the requested steps set out by the European Council in its 27 June conclusions have not been adequately taken. As a result, the European Council yesterday agreed to expand the restrictive measures, with a view to targeting entities, including from the Russian Federation, that are materially or financially supporting actions undermining or threatening Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. It tasked the Council to adopt the necessary legal instruments and to decide by the end of July on a first list of entities and persons, including from the Russian Federation, to be listed under the enhanced criteria. It also asked to consider the possibility of targeting individuals

or entities who actively provide material or financial support to the Russian decision-makers responsible for the annexation of Crimea or the destabilisation of eastern Ukraine.

The European Council requested the European Investment Bank (EIB) to suspend the signature of new financing operations in the Russian Federation. Moreover, European Union Member States will coordinate their positions within the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Board of Directors with a view to also suspending financing of new operations. The European Council invited the European Commission to re-assess EU-Russia cooperation programmes with a view to taking a decision, on a case by case basis, on the suspension of the implementation of EU bilateral and regional cooperation programmes. However, projects dealing exclusively with cross-border cooperation and civil society will be maintained.

The European Council recalled that preparatory work on targeted measures has been undertaken so that further steps can be taken without delay. It expressed its commitment to reconvene at any time should events so require. In line with the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, the European Council requested the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to present proposals for additional measures in particular on restricting investments in Crimea and Sevastopol. The European Council also expressed its expectation that the International Financial Institutions would refrain from financing any projects that explicitly or implicitly recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol.

Mr Chairman, the EU expresses its strong support to the ongoing efforts of the OSCE and the Chairmanship-in-Office for their efforts to facilitate meetings of the Trilateral Contact Group with the participation of its representative ambassador Tagliavini. We strongly regret the lack of willingness on the side of the separatists to engage in substantive talks with the Contact Group on a genuine and sustainable cease-fire.

We stand ready to adopt a decision on the extension of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) before the summer recess and we reiterate our support for the use of its full potential. We support expanding the role of the SMM within its mandate, including in regard to monitoring a possible ceasefire, and facilitation of the release of hostages. We welcome that the Chairmanship and Secretariat are looking into different means for monitoring purposes, including in the border area. The safety of the OSCE observers must remain a priority for all parties.

The European Union commends the efforts of the OSCE and its Chairmanship in Office, particularly in facilitating meetings of the Contact Group in Ukraine, and its readiness to establish a border-monitoring mission, to which the European Union and its Member States stand ready to consider a substantial contribution. Furthermore, we are ready to engage on the basis of the draft proposed by the Swiss chair on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints at the Russian-Ukrainian border.

The European Union 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 Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, as well as UKRAINE, align themselves with this statement.

* 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.