



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1039 Vienna, 12 February 2015**

---

#### **EU Statement on Russia's Ongoing Aggression against Ukraine and Violation of OSCE Principles**

---

The European Union welcomes that an agreement has been reached in Minsk today. The European Council of Heads of State and Government will meet later today to discuss this issue. We underline there can be no alternative to a negotiated settlement which respects the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The agreement reached will need to be fully implemented, and no action should be taken in the next days that would run contrary to the spirit of the agreement and make its implementation more difficult.

Mr Chairman, discussions in Minsk have taken place against the backdrop of a severe escalation of hostilities in parts of eastern Ukraine and an alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation. We continue to strongly condemn the Russian-backed separatists' offensive. We express our deep concern about the expansion of hostilities to new areas far from the so-called line of contact as we witnessed in Kramatorsk last Tuesday. Indiscriminate shelling of heavily populated areas in Kramatorsk resulted in many killed and wounded.

The fighting provoked by the continued separatist offensive, notably around Debaltseve and other strategically important areas, as reported by the SMM, is causing human suffering. Shelling of civilians, wherever it happens, is a grave violation of international humanitarian law. We once again commend the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) for its valuable and objective reports that continue to provide a unique insight into the hostilities, even though the monitors are experiencing more restrictions on their freedom of movement than usual. We note the many observations of heavy military equipment in areas controlled by the separatists. This corresponds to evidence of continued and growing support given to the separatists by Russia. This underlines Russia's responsibility. In this

context, we recall that re-establishing Ukrainian control of its borders remains essential.

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.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries NORWAY and LIECHTENSTEIN, 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.