



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation to the Council of Europe

**1223<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
Strasbourg, 18 March 2015**

**Declaration by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy on behalf of the EU on Crimea**

One year on from the holding of the illegal and illegitimate "referendum" and the subsequent illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the European Union remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The European Union does not recognise and continues to condemn this act of violation of international law. The illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation is also a direct challenge to international security, with grave implications for the international legal order that protects the unity and sovereignty of all states.

The European Union will remain committed to fully implement its non-recognition policy, including through restrictive measures. The EU calls again on UN Member States to consider similar non-recognition measures in line with the UNGA Resolution 68/262.

The EU reaffirms its deep concern at the continuous military build-up and deterioration of the human rights situation in the Crimean peninsula, including the denial of free speech and the persecution of persons belonging to minorities. The European Union reiterates its call to provide international human rights actors with full, free and unrestricted access to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol.

The Countries ALBANIA, GEORGIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, MONTENEGRO, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, NORWAY, SAN MARINO, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA and TURKEY align themselves with this statement.