Statement by the Spokesperson on the extension by the Parliament of Ukraine of the validity of the Law on Special Status of certain parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions

With today's extension by the Parliament of Ukraine of the validity of the Law on Special Status of certain parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions until the end of 2019, Ukraine has confirmed its strong commitment to the Minsk agreements.

More than 4 years after the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, implementation of the Minsk agreements by all sides remains key to reaching a lasting peaceful solution to this conflict. Most Minsk-related commitments, starting with implementing a genuine lasting ceasefire, are still not fulfilled.

The announcement that so-called "elections" will be held in the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" and the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" on 11 November 2018 runs contrary to the spirit and letter of the Minsk agreements. We continue to expect the Russian Federation to fully assume its responsibility in this regard and to use its considerable influence over the separatists it backs to meet the Minsk commitments in full.

The European Union fully supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Press contacts

Press Contacts:
Maja KOCIJANCIC
Maja KOCIJANCIC
Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
+32 (0)2 29 86570
+32 (0)498 984 425
Adam KAZNOWSKI

Adam KAZNOWSKI
Press Officer for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
+32 (0) 2 29 89359
+32 (0)460 768 088
www.eeas.europa.eu

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