



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1135
Vienna, 2 March 2017**

EU Statement on “Human rights violations by Russia in illegally occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol”

The European Union does not recognize and condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. The act contravenes Russia’s commitments under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. We remain committed to fully implementing our non-recognition policy, including through restrictive measures, and we call on OSCE participating States to take similar non-recognition measures in line with UNGA Resolution 68/262.

We condemn the significant deterioration in the human rights situation on the Ukrainian peninsular since its illegal annexation by Russia. As documented by ODIHR, RFoM, HCNM and the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), political opposition in Crimea has been stifled and persecuted, civil society curbed, journalists silenced and people belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, particularly the Crimean Tartar community, suppressed. All allegations of violations of human rights, including torture, arbitrary detentions, disappearances and the denial of rights to freedom of expression, of assembly and association and of religion or belief must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

We call on the Russian Federation to comply with its international human rights commitments, including those of the OSCE, implement the recommendations put forth in the joint ODIHR and HCNM Human Rights Assessment Mission report on Crimea as well as UN General Assembly Resolution 71/205 under the title “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”, and ensure full, free and unrestricted access to Crimea for international

human rights actors and the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, in accordance with their mandate.

We recall our firm support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine. We urge Russia to respect these fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to reverse moves that contravene them.

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 ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.