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OSCE Permanent Council No 1062
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EU statement on Russia's Ongoing Aggressions against Ukraine and Violations of OSCE Principles

Earlier today, the Permanent Council commemorated the anniversary of the tragedy of flight MH17 on 17 July 2014. Those directly or indirectly responsible for the downing of MH17 must be held accountable and brought to justice, in accordance with UNSC resolution 2166. In this respect, the EU and its Member States fully support the ongoing efforts to establish a binding and credible prosecution mechanism.

We remain deeply concerned by the continuing ceasefire violations at and around the Donetsk airport and other locations in parts of eastern Ukraine. The presence, movement and use of heavy weapons in violation of the Minsk agreements are also of major concern. We note in particular the SMM's reports on concentrations of military hardware in and around the separatist-controlled railway-hub in Komsomolske north-east of Mariupol. We reiterate that any attempts by the Russia-backed separatists to gain control of additional territory will be a gross violation of the Minsk agreements and seriously undermine all efforts promoting a sustainable political resolution.

We once again call on all parties to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements, based on OSCE principles and commitments, and in full respect of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The ceasefire must be respected, heavy weapons withdrawn and foreign armed formations, military equipment as well as mercenaries removed from the territory of Ukraine. We underline the Russian authorities' responsibility in this regard. We also expect Russia to use its considerable influence over the separatists it backs to meet their Minsk commitments in full. In this context we recall the decision by the European Council to

extend the EU restrictive measures, in view of Russia's destabilising role in eastern Ukraine.

The Trilateral Contact Group of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the OSCE Chairmanship must continue to play an essential role in promoting the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We hope that the meetings of the working groups subordinate to the Trilateral Contact Group scheduled next week will finally result in agreement on concrete proposals. We call on all sides to strengthen their efforts and to show the necessary political will. We reiterate our support for the efforts of the Normandy format in facilitating the full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We remain fully supportive of the SMM's efforts in Ukraine as we stressed in response to Chief Monitor Apakan earlier this week. The SMM must be allowed to fulfil its mandate and implement its tasks under the Minsk agreements. We once again call on all sides to ensure safe, full and unhindered access for SMM monitors and UAVs to all parts of Ukraine, including to heavy weapons holding areas, the Crimean peninsula and along the border with Russia. We also once again call on all sides to provide the SMM with the full baseline information that would allow for verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

We deeply regret that so-called 'humanitarian convoys' from Russia continue to enter Ukrainian territory, without the consent of the Ukrainian authorities and in clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and without fundamental international humanitarian principles being observed. We note with concern a pattern of intensified military activities of the separatists, usually following arrival of so-called 'humanitarian convoys' from Russia.

We have taken note of the recent developments in Mukacheve. It is crucial that there is an immediate end to any illegal actions and that rule of law is fully observed. The EU expects the incident to be thoroughly investigated by the authorities and perpetrators of illegal actions to be brought to justice.

Mr Chairman, 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*, ICELAND+, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.