
УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонный разговор с Федеральным канцлером Германии Ангелой Меркель

По инициативе германской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Федеральным канцлером Федеративной Республики Германия Ангелой Меркель.

5 марта 2014 года, 22:50

Владимир Путин и Ангела Меркель обменялись мнениями по ряду аспектов острого кризиса на Украине и обсудили возможные варианты международного содействия нормализации общественно-политической обстановки в этой стране.

Заседание Высшего Евразийского экономического совета

Владимир Путин, Президент Республики Беларусь Александр Лукашенко и Президент Республики Казахстан Нурсултан Назарбаев провели очередное заседание Высшего Евразийского экономического совета.

5 марта 2014 года, 19:10

Московская область, Ново-Огарёво

В.Путин: Добрый день, уважаемые друзья, коллеги!

Россия, Белоруссия и Казахстан последовательно продвигаются по пути интеграции, и сегодня мы в рамках Высшего Евразийского экономического совета на уровне глав государств поговорим о том, что происходит в этой сфере, куда мы двигаемся, каким темпом, выполняем ли мы все запланированные ранее шаги, все планы.

Наша общая цель – перейти на новый, более высокий уровень взаимодействия и создать в начале 2015 года, как мы договаривались, Евразийский экономический союз. Для этого необходимо выдержать намеченные сроки и завершить к маю подготовку проекта договора.

В соответствии с поручением, которое мы дали на предыдущем заседании в Москве (оно состоялось в декабре), правительства «тройки», Евразийская экономическая комиссия ускорили работу над текстом договора, он в деталях обсуждался и вчера в Астане на уровне вице-премьеров. Наш участник, это первый вице-премьер российского Правительства Игорь Шувалов, сегодня мне с утра уже докладывал об этих результатах.

Институциональная часть договоров должна определить международно-правовой статус и организационные рамки будущего союза, закрепить основные принципы его деятельности. Функциональная, отраслевая часть будет регламентировать механизмы экономического взаимодействия.

При этом важно гарантировать так называемые четыре свободы, то есть по обеспечению беспрепятственного перемещения товаров, услуг, капиталов и рабочей силы, зафиксировать конкретные обязательства по устранению изъятий и ограничений, сохраняющихся в Таможенном союзе и Едином экономическом пространстве.

Союз надо наделить широким набором полномочий в сфере экономического регулирования. Это позволит проводить общую и согласованную политику в ключевых отраслях, повысить устойчивость и потенциал развития национальных экономик, обеспечит ёмкий единый рынок и приток дополнительных инвестиций.

Евразийские интеграционные процессы уже приносят вполне конкретные результаты, конкретную отдачу. Несмотря на общее замедление темпов роста мировой экономики, мирового хозяйства, в 2013 году товарооборот в рамках тройки не только не снизился, а

чуть-чуть всё-таки увеличился и составил 64,1 миллиарда долларов.

При этом улучшается структура взаимной торговли, сокращается доля сырьевых ресурсов в экспортно-импортных операциях, причём это изменение идёт за счёт повышения технологической продукции, за счёт товаров с высокой добавленной стоимостью, – и изменения значительные. В общей структуре с 28,9 процента доля высокотехнологичной продукции увеличилась до 40 процентов.

Россия дорожит конструктивными, равноправными и открытыми отношениями, которые сложились в сфере экономики между нашими странами, высоко ценит достигнутые совместные результаты.

Интеграция создаёт предпосылки для равноправной конкуренции на рынке государств Таможенного союза. Расширяется потребительский спрос. Тем самым стимулируется инновационная активность наших компаний, производители более эффективно используют имеющиеся ресурсы.

Приоритетным направлением интеграционного взаимодействия стал учёт интересов бизнес-сообщества. Евразийская экономическая комиссия наладила тесные сотрудничества с объединениями деловых кругов наших стран, консультируется с предпринимателями по вопросам совершенствования нормативной базы Таможенного союза и Единого экономического пространства. Я скажу больше, не просто консультируется: по сути, представители бизнес-кругов включены в этот процесс и являются соавторами всех этих документов.

Евразийский интеграционный проект привлекает наших партнёров по СНГ. В наиболее продвинутой стадии находятся переговоры о подключении к нему и Армении, и Кыргызстана.

С армянской стороны принят и успешно реализуется план мероприятий по адаптации к нормам и требованиям Таможенного союза и Единого экономического пространства. Поэтому считаем возможным перейти к подготовке проекта договора о присоединении Армении к будущему Евразийскому экономическому союзу.

Конечно, нужно все минусы и плюсы здесь взвесить, причём для всех участников этого процесса. Важно продолжить и содействие Кыргызстану по присоединению. Необходимо вместе с нашими партнёрами утвердить дорожную карту дальнейших действий.

Ключевой экономической партнёр Таможенного союза – Украина. Нас объединяют тесные промышленные и торговые связи. Украинцы входят в зону свободной торговли СНГ.

Экстраординарная ситуация, сложившаяся на Украине, вызывает серьёзное беспокойство. Украинская экономика находится в тяжёлом, если не сказать тяжелейшем кризисе. Возможны негативные последствия и для рынка Таможенного союза.

Поэтому нужно вместе подумать над тем, что бы предпринять в целях защиты наших производителей и экспортёров, а также проработать параметры дальнейшего взаимодействия с Украиной. Безусловно, нам нужно сделать всё, чтобы помочь нашим партнёрам выйти из той сложной ситуации, в которой они сегодня находятся.

Мы, конечно, обсудим сегодня и другие аспекты, касающиеся ситуации вокруг Украины. Евразийское интеграционное объединение открыто к сотрудничеству со всеми государствами и уже приступило к формированию пакета соглашений о свободной торговле с рядом государств.

Получено около 40 предложений о заключении таких договоров, в том числе от Европейской ассоциации свободной торговли: это Исландия Лихтенштейн, Норвегия, Швейцария, – от Вьетнама, Израиля, Индии, Чили, Перу.

И в заключение подчеркну: Россия дорожит конструктивными, равноправными и открытыми отношениями, которые сложились в сфере экономики между нашими странами, высоко ценит достигнутые совместные результаты.

Убеждён, евразийская экономическая интеграция открывает перед участниками этого проекта новые, уникальные возможности, которые могут и должны быть использованы на

благо граждан наших стран.

Интеграция создаёт предпосылки для равноправной конкуренции на рынке государств Таможенного союза. Расширяется потребительский спрос, стимулируется инновационная активность компаний, производители более эффективно используют имеющиеся ресурсы. Я вас благодарю за внимание и хочу передать слово нашим сегодняшним гостям.

<...>

РФ РФ

5 марта 2014

**ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ
СОВЕТА ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО СОБРАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
Об Обращении Совета Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации к
органам государственной власти субъектов Российской Федерации в связи с
ситуацией, сложившейся на Украине**

Совет Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации **постановляет**:

1. Принять Обращение Совета Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации к органам государственной власти субъектов Российской Федерации в связи с ситуацией, сложившейся на Украине.
2. Настоящее постановление вступает в силу со дня его принятия.

**Председатель
Совета Федерации
Федерального Собрания
Российской Федерации В.И.МАТВИЕНКО**

Москва
5 марта 2014 года
№ 65-СФ

5 марта 2014

**ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ
СОВЕТА ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО СОБРАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
О Заявлении Совета Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации в
связи с необходимостью консолидации усилий по нормализации общественно-
политической обстановки на Украине**

Совет Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации **постановляет**:

1. Принять Заявление Совета Федерации Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации в связи с необходимостью консолидации усилий по нормализации общественно-политической обстановки на Украине.
2. Настоящее постановление вступает в силу со дня его принятия.

**Председатель
Совета Федерации
Федерального Собрания**

Российской Федерации В.И.МАТВИЕНКО

Москва
5 марта 2014 года
№ 66-СФ

Уряд РФ

Дмитрий Медведев принял участие в совещании у Президента России с членами Правительства

5 марта 2014 15:30 Ново-Огарёво, Московская область

Стенограмма:

В.Путин: Добрый день, уважаемые коллеги!

Мы собрались, чтобы поговорить о ситуации на финансовом и валютном рынках, но прежде чем мы начнем обсуждать тот вопрос, ради которого собрались, хотел бы получить пару справок.

Знаю, что Председатель Правительства уже поручал Минфину проработать вопрос с нашими партнёрами на Украине по поводу возможного предоставления дополнительной помощи, а также помощи некоторым регионам Украины, которые обращались к нам с этими вопросами. Что там происходит? Пожалуйста, проинформируйте.

А.Силуанов: Уважаемый Владимир Владимирович! Действительно, общая ситуация в Украине непростая, сокращается финансирование расходов бюджета: по оценкам, финансирование расходов государственного бюджета Украины произойдёт примерно на 15 процентов.

Это, конечно, затронет и помощь регионов, в том числе и Крыму, поэтому мы сейчас на уровне Министерства финансов наладили сотрудничество, взаимоотношения с Министерством финансов Крыма.

В.Путин: Я имею в виду Украину в целом сначала.

А.Силуанов: В целом по Украине мы говорим о сокращении доходов и соответственно пересмотра бюджета в сторону снижения объёмов расходов на 15 процентов.

В этой связи наши иностранные партнёры предлагают оказывать поддержку, в первую очередь за счёт средств Международного валютного фонда, но и с инициативой выходят об оказании поддержки Соединённые Штаты Америки, страны Европейского союза, поэтому, на наш взгляд, мы здесь тоже должны заготовить различные варианты оказания поддержки в случае ухудшения общей ситуации.

В.Путин: Что касается регионов, то это через регионы Российской Федерации Вы предлагаете действовать?

А.Силуанов: Я знаю, что регионы – соседи украинских регионов – выступили с такими предложениями об оказании финансовой поддержки, поскольку заключены соответствующие соглашения о взаимном сотрудничестве, оказании финансовой помощи. И эти соглашения могут быть реализованы в настоящее время.

В.Путин: Хорошо, спасибо.

Алексей Борисович, Вы докладывали Дмитрию Анатольевичу по ситуации на украинском рынке потребления энергоресурсов. Там что-то – я в принципе знаю, даже, можно сказать, в деталях, – что-то изменилось за последнее время?

А.Миллер: Владимир Владимирович, из объёма долга 1 миллиард 529 миллионов долларов Украина сегодня погасила 10 миллионов, но 7 марта, послезавтра, обязательства Украины увеличиваются на 440 миллионов долларов в счёт оплаты за газпоставки февраля.

В.Путин: Платить они собираются?

А.Миллер: Наши украинские коллеги нас проинформировали о том, что они не смогут в

полном объёме заплатить за газ за февраль.

В.Путин: И сколько будет совокупный долг?

А.Миллер: Он возрастет значительно и приблизится к 2 миллиардам.

В.Путин: Понятно. Вы тогда докладываете, пожалуйста, Председателю [Правительства], как ситуация развивается.

Да, пожалуйста.

Д.Рогозин: Владимир Владимирович, как раз к вопросу по электроэнергетике тоже хотел бы добавить два слова. Вы знаете, что на территории Украины 15 работающих энергоблоков на 4 станциях и заглушены 4 энергоблока Чернобыльской станции.

Естественно, поскольку мы интересуемся этим вопросом, поскольку реакторы российского производства, так вот с точки зрения штатной работы там всё нормально, на самих станциях. Но периметр безопасности обеспечивается частными охранными предприятиями, а также войсками Министерства внутренних дел Украины и Службой безопасности Украины.

Плюс у нас есть ещё проблемы, связанные с транзитом ядерного топлива через территорию Украины к нашим партнёрам в Восточной Европе. И есть вопросы, связанные с поставкой топлива на сами атомные станции Украины.

Запас топлива на электростанциях Украины есть на март и апрель. Дальше нет. Пока введён запрет на такого рода передвижения топлива из-за нестабильной ситуации в стране.

Мы планируем по линии государственной корпорации «Росатом» обратиться к МАГАТЭ с просьбой провести дополнительную инспекцию периметра безопасности атомных станций.

В.Путин: У меня просьба и к Вам, и к нашим коллегам, которые работают в области энергетики и финансов. Мы видим известное политическое напряжение, оно не должно сказываться на нашем текущем экономическом сотрудничестве.

Не нужно никого ставить в какое-то дополнительное сложное положение, нужно сотрудничать со всеми нашими традиционными партнёрами – безусловно, обеспечивая наши интересы. Задаром никто нигде ничего не получает. И в этом случае тоже должно действовать это правило. Но не нужно ничего нагнетать и не нужно перекладывать политическую составляющую на вопросы экономического сотрудничества.

<...>

МЗС РФ

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О встрече Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Высоким представителем ЕС по иностранным делам и политике безопасности/заместителем Председателя Европейской комиссии К.Эштон

451-05-03-2014

4 марта в Мадриде Министр иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лавров встретился с Высоким представителем ЕС по иностранным делам и политике безопасности/заместителем Председателя Европейской комиссии К.Эштон.

В ходе беседы была подробно обсуждена ситуация на Украине. С.В.Лавров привлек особое внимание собеседницы, к по существу, исчерпывающим разъяснениям российской позиции, сделанным Президентом Российской Федерации В.В.Путиным в ходе пресс-конференции 4 марта. Министр подчеркнул, что устойчивая нормализация положения в этой стране должна опираться на основные принципы Соглашения об урегулировании кризиса на Украине от 21 февраля, включая реализацию конституционной реформы, которая учитывала бы в полной мере интересы всех без исключения регионов Украины, создание правительства национального единства, разоружение незаконных формирований и удаление их с улиц украинских городов.

УКРАЇНА

**В.о. Президента України – Голова Верховної Ради України
ВР України**

Голова Верховної Ради України Олександр Турчинов у середу 5 березня 2014 року провів телефонну розмову з Президентом Парламентської Асамблеї Ради Європи Анн Брассер.

Під час розмови, що відбулася за ініціативи ПАРЄ, сторони обговорили поточну ситуацію, яка склалась в Україні, приділивши особливу увагу подіям, що відбуваються зараз на півострові Крим.

За словами О.Турчинова, нова влада продовжує вживати заходів до стабілізації ситуації в Україні. "Зокрема, – наголосив він, – зараз вже відновлена вся система виконавчої влади". Стосовно тієї складної ситуації, що склалась в АР Крим, керівник Парламенту назвав присутність збройних сил Російської Федерації на півострові "нічим невмотивованою агресією проти незалежної суверенної держави".

"Це тим більше викликає подив у зв'язку із тим, що РФ разом із США та Британією виступає гарантом нашої територіальної цілісності, відповідно до Меморандуму, підписаного в Будапешті у 1994 р.", – сказав він, додавши, що ніяких пояснень – "моральних чи юридичних, незрозумілій поведінці РФ немає".

"Усі права громадян України, незалежно від того, на якій мові вони розмовляють, до якого етносу належать чи в яку церкву ходять, захищені", – пояснив він.

Крім того, керівник Парламенту повідомив, що особисто звернувся до міжнародних інституцій з проханням надіслати своїх спостерігачів, "які б змогли оцінити ситуацію на місці".

Своєю чергою, А.Брассер підтвердила готовність "негайно направити експертів та спостерігачів до України".

"Ми вітаємо зміни, які відбуваються в Україні", – сказала вона, запевнивши співрозмовника, що ПАРЄ всіляко підтримає нову владу в її намірах захистити, зміцнити та реформувати країну.

(Прес-секретар Голови Верховної Ради України)

У середу 5 березня 2014 року відбулася зустріч Голови Верховної Ради України Олександра Турчинова з Міністром закордонних справ Королівства Данія Мартіном Лідегором і Міністром закордонних справ Королівства Швеція Карлом Більдтом.

Під час зустрічі Сторони обговорили питання щодо поточної ситуації в Україні. За словами О.Турчинова, незважаючи на агресію Російської Федерації в АР Крим, ситуація в країні стабілізується – "сформовано Уряд, відновлена владна вертикаль".

"Нашим основним завданням є відновлення економіки країни, яку попередня влада залишила майже повністю зруйнованою", – сказав він, наголосивши на важливості того факту, що одним із перших рішень Уряду було скасування Постанови Уряду Януковича-Азарова про припинення європейської інтеграції.

"Приєднання до сім'ї європейських країн є для нас одним із найважливіших завдань", – наголосив керівник Парламенту.

Зі свого боку, представники Європейського Союзу завірили нову владу у повній підтримці та засудили дії російських військових у Криму.

"Ми готові надавати вам і надалі усіляку підтримку: економічну, та політичну", – сказав М.Лідегор.

Крім того, К.Більдт наголосив, що Європа вітає ті зміни, які відбуваються в країні, та

"готова всіляко допомагати Україні на шляху до Європи".

(Прес-секретар Голови Верховної Ради України)

Комітет з питань національної безпеки і оборони ВРУ у середу 5 березня 2014 року розглянув питання виконання попередніх рішень та рекомендацій щодо ситуації в Криму та у південно-східних регіонах.

Члени Комітету на засіданні заслухали інформацію представників Міністерства збройних сил, Служби безпеки України, Міністерства внутрішніх справ, Внутрішніх військ, Управління державної охорони, Державної прикордонної служби, інших структур сектору безпеки щодо питань їх відповідальності та оперативної ситуації в Криму.

За результатами обговорення окреслено додаткові проблемні питання, які потребують розв'язання Верховною Радою України, Кабінетом Міністрів, Радою національної безпеки і оборони України, а також окремими міністерствами і відомствами.

КМ України

Економічна допомога від США, ЄС і МВФ дасть можливість стабілізувати економічну ситуацію в Україні, – А. Яценюк

05.03.2014 | 10:53 Департамент інформації та комунікацій з громадськістю Секретаріату КМУ

Можливості, які Україна отримає за рахунок пакетів економічної і фінансової допомоги від США, ЄС і МВФ дадуть змогу стабілізувати економічну ситуацію. На цьому наголосив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк під час засідання Уряду та селекторної наради з головами облдержадміністрацій у середу, 5 березня.

Він нагадав, що завтра у Брюсселі відбудеться позачерговий саміт глав держав і урядів країн Європейського Союзу, в якому Прем'єр-міністр України візьме участь на запрошення Ради Європейського Союзу.

Арсеній Яценюк підкреслив, що вчора Державний секретар США оголосив про перший пакет економічної допомоги, який отримає українська держава: «Сподіваюся, в найкоротші терміни – сьогодні і завтра – наші європейські партнери також оголосять про економічний пакет фінансової допомоги для України».

«Ситуація з державними фінансами є дуже складною. Ті можливості, які ми отримаємо за рахунок пакетів економічної і фінансової допомоги від США, ЄС і МВФ дадуть нам можливість стабілізувати економічну ситуацію», – підкреслив Прем'єр-міністр.

Він також наголосив, що російська військова агресія на території України має не лише політичні та безпекові, а й економічні наслідки: «Немотивована присутність російських військових на території України має надзвичайно негативний ефект в першу чергу на українську економіку».

«Ще раз закликаємо російське керівництво негайно відвести війська, виконувати двосторонні і багатосторонні угоди. Те, що сьогодні відбувається на території АР Крим, загрожує не тільки національній безпеці України, а стало загрозувати світу в цілому. І відповідальність за ці дії лежить виключно на Росії. Жодних підстав для військової агресії на території України у російського керівництва не було, немає і не буде», – підкреслив Арсеній Яценюк.

Уряд виконує і виконуватиме всі соціальні зобов'язання перед українцями Криму, – Арсеній Яценюк

05.03.2014 | 11:08 Департамент інформації та комунікацій з громадськістю Секретаріату КМУ

Український Уряд виконує і буде виконувати всі соціальні зобов'язання перед українцями, які проживають на території Автономії. На цьому наголосив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у середу, 5 березня, під час засідання Уряду та селекторної наради з головами облдержадміністрацій.

Арсеній Яценюк зазначив, що незважаючи на вкрай непросту ситуацію в АР Крим, Уряд України виконує свої зобов'язання перед Автономією: «За останні два дні ми перерахували на територію АР Крим для покриття соціальних та інших видатків 60 млн. грн.».

За його словами, попри неймовірну заборгованість Автономії за споживання енергоносіїв, Уряд забезпечує постачання енергоносіїв на територію Криму: «Ми забезпечуємо життєдіяльність Автономії, незважаючи на російську військову агресію в АР Крим».

Арсеній Яценюк також підкреслив, що «після того, як російські танки і військовослужбовці з'явилися у Криму, курортного фактично сезону не буде»: «Не буде курортного сезону – не буде додаткових доходів бюджету».

У зв'язку з цим, Прем'єр-міністр звернувся до Міністра фінансів Олександра Шлапака відкоригувати доходи Автономії: «Їм прийдеться допомагати і збільшувати обсяги дотації для того, щоб втримати соціальну ситуацію у Криму».

МЗС України

Зустріч високого рівня країн-учасниць Будапештського меморандуму у Парижі

(Посольство України у Франції)

06 березня 2014, 19:59

5 березня 2014 року у м.Париж на запрошення американської сторони в.о.Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиця взяв участі у зустрічі високого рівня країн-учасниць Будапештського меморандуму разом із Державним секретарем США Джоном Керрі та Державним секретарем Великої Британії у закордонних справах і справах Співдружності Вільямом Хейгом.

Метою зустрічі було обговорення нагального питання стосовно Будапештського меморандуму – договору, підписаного Урядами Сполучених Штатів Америки, Великої Британії та Росії 1994 року. Сполучені Штати надсилали запрошення Російській Федерації на цю зустріч, яка, на жаль, відмовилася від участі.

США, Велика Британія та Україна погодилися, що прями переговори між Україною та Росією за сприяння, в разі необхідності, членів міжнародного співтовариства, є вирішальними для врегулювання поточної ситуації. Вони також погодилися, що міжнародні спостерігачі мають бути негайно направлені до України, зокрема до східної України та Криму. Три Уряди підтвердили важливість захисту прав усіх українських громадян та висловили впевненість у тому, що міжнародні спостерігачі допоможуть зняти будь-які занепокоєння щодо нерегулярних сил, військової активності та ставлення до всіх українців безвідносно до їхньої етнічної приналежності або мови, якою вони розмовляють.

5 березня 2014 р. Спільна заява США, Великої Британії та України на засіданні міністерського рівня щодо виконання Будапештського меморандуму

05 березня 2014, 18:39

On 5 March 2014, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a meeting in Paris with the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, William Hague, and the Acting Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Andriy Deshchysia.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the urgent question of the Budapest Memorandum,

the agreement signed by the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Russia in 1994. The United States had conveyed an invitation to the Russian Federation to the meeting. We deeply regret that the Russian Federation declined to attend.

The Budapest Memorandum sets out the obligations of signatories in return for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons. Under its terms, the three parties commit to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity. The Memorandum also obliges the UK, US and Russia to consult in the event of a situation arising where the memorandum commitments are questioned.

Ukraine voluntarily surrendered the world's third largest nuclear weapons arsenal in exchange for these assurances. The three Governments treat these assurances with utmost seriousness, and expect Russia to do as well. Russia has chosen to act unilaterally and militarily. The United Kingdom and United States will continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and we commend the new Ukrainian government for not taking actions that might escalate the situation. Russia's continued violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity can only degrade Russia's international standing and lead to greater political and economic consequences.

In the meeting, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine discussed steps needed to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and called on Russia to engage in consultations with Ukraine as they have committed to in the Budapest memorandum.

The United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine agreed that direct talks between Ukraine and Russia, facilitated as needed by members of the international community, are crucial to resolving the current situation. They also agreed that international observers should be deployed immediately in Ukraine, especially in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. The three governments reaffirmed the importance of protecting the rights of all Ukrainian citizens, and believed that international observers would help address any concerns regarding irregular forces, military activity and the treatment of all Ukrainians irrespective of their ethnicity or spoken language.

**Заява для преси США, Великої Британії та України за підсумками зустрічі стосовно
Будапештського меморандуму**
05 березня 2014, 19:49

5 березня 2014 року в Парижі на запрошення американської сторони відбулася зустріч Державного секретаря США Джона Керрі, Державного секретаря Великої Британії у закордонних справах і справах Співдружності Вільяма Хейга та виконуючого обов'язки Міністра закордонних справ України Андрія Дешиці.

Метою зустрічі було обговорення нагального питання стосовно Будапештського меморандуму – договору, підписаного Урядами Сполучених Штатів Америки, Великої Британії та Росії 1994 року. Сполучені Штати надсилали запрошення Російській Федерації на цю зустріч. Ми глибоко розчаровані відмовою Російської Федерації взяти у ній участь.

Будапештський меморандум викладає зобов'язання підписантів в обмін на відмову України від ядерної зброї. Відповідно до його положень три сторони дають гарантії утримання від загрози чи використання сили проти територіальної цілісності України. Меморандум також зобов'язує Велику Британію, США та Росію проводити консультації у разі виникнення ситуації, коли обов'язки сторін за меморандумом ставляться під сумнів.

Україна добровільно відмовилася від третього у світі за розміром ядерного арсеналу в обмін на ці гарантії. Три Уряди надають виключного значення цим гарантіям і очікують того ж від Росії. Росія обрала односторонній військовий спосіб дій. Велика Британія і Сполучені Штати Америки продовжуватимуть підтримувати суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України, і ми високо оцінюємо новий Уряд України за утримання від кроків, які б могли призвести до ескалації ситуації. Постійне порушення Росією суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України може тільки погіршити міжнародне становище Росії і

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призвести до ще більш серйозних політичних та економічних наслідків.

Під час зустрічі Уряди Сполучених Штатів Америки, Великої Британії та України обговорили кроки, необхідні для відновлення територіальної цілісності України, і закликали Росію залучитися до проведення консультацій з Україною відповідно до зобов'язань в рамках Будапештського меморандуму.

США, Велика Британія та Україна погодилися, що прямі переговори між Україною та Росією за сприяння, в разі необхідності, членів міжнародного співтовариства, є вирішальними для врегулювання поточної ситуації. Вони також погодилися, що міжнародні спостерігачі мають бути негайно направлені до України, зокрема до східної України та Криму. Три Уряди підтвердили важливість захисту прав усіх українських громадян та висловили впевненість у тому, що міжнародні спостерігачі допоможуть зняти будь-які занепокоєння щодо нерегулярних сил, військової активності та ставлення до всіх українців безвідносно до їхньої етнічної приналежності або мови, якою вони розмовляють.

Зустріч в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрія Дешиці з Дипломатичним радником Президента Французької Республіки Полем Жаном-Ортізом

05 березня 2014, 11:34

У рамках робочого візиту до м.Париж в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів зустріч з Дипломатичним радником Президента Французької Республіки Полем Жаном-Ортізом.

Бесіда була присвячена напруженій ситуації в Україні у зв'язку із введенням військових сил Російської Федерації на територію нашої держави.

Міністр проінформував про хронологію останніх подій на Кримському півострові, а також дав оцінку неправомірним діям РФ, що ставить під загрозу безпеку та територіальну цілісність нашої держави, та є грубим порушенням міжнародного права.

У цьому зв'язку А.Дешиця висловив подяку за послідовну позицію найвищого керівництва Франції у питанні збереження територіальної цілісності і суверенітету України.

Зустріч в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрія Дешиці з Міністром закордонних справ Франції Лораном Фабіусом

05 березня 2014, 11:40

Під час перебування з робочим візитом у Парижі в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця зустрівся із Міністром закордонних справ Франції Лораном Фабіусом.

Основною темою зустрічі стало питання збереження територіальної цілісності та суверенітету України у світлі введення на територію нашої держави військових сил Російської Федерації.

Міністр також наголосив на відданості нового українського керівництва політиці миру та поваги прав усіх громадян України, незалежно від національної, етнічної та релігійної приналежності.

Глава зовнішньополітичного відомства України подякував Лорану Фабіусу за його особистий внесок у врегулювання внутрішньополітичної кризи в Україні та ефективне посередництво французької сторони.

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Олефіров зустрівся з Першим заступником Генерального секретаря ООН Яном Еліассоном.

05 березня 2014, 15:21

Ян Еліассон поінформував про перебіг свого візиту до України, високо оцінивши результати зустрічей з керівництвом держави.

Сторони обговорили поточний стан ситуації довкола Автономної Республіки Крим та шляхи подальшого залучення ООН до її деескалації.

Ян Еліассон наголосив на необхідності неухильного дотримання основоположних норм і принципів Статуту ООН, насамперед щодо мирного врегулювання спорів, а також підтвердив беззаперечну підтримку ООН державного суверенітету, територіальної цілісності та незалежності України.

Він наголосив на нагальності налагодження офіційного українсько-російського діалогу з метою якнайскорішого врегулювання ситуації в АРК та високо оцінив стриманість дій української сторони під час конфлікту.

Андрій Олефіров від імені керівництва держави передав подяку Генеральному секретарю ООН Бан Кі-муну за його особисті зусилля з врегулювання ситуації в АРК.

Володимир Хандогій: Україна сподівається на мирне врегулювання ситуації

(Посольство України у Великобританії)

05 березня 2014, 12:35

Україна сподівається на мирне вирішення кризи. Про це Посол України у Великій Британії Володимир Хандогій заявив в ефірі програми "Today" на радіостанції BBC 4.

На запитання журналіста про можливість військового втручання, Посол відповів, що відповідальність за такий розвиток подій лежить на російській стороні. "Мені не хотілося б робити прогнози про можливість військових заходів. Все залежить від поведінки Росії", – зазначив Володимир Хандогій.

Разом з тим, український дипломат висловив сподівання, що кризову ситуацію в Україні все ж таки вдасться вирішити у мирний спосіб.

"Ми сподіваємося на мирне вирішення цього питання", – заявив Володимир Хандогій.

Володимир Хандогій: Порушення територіальної цілісності та кордонів України є неприйнятним у сучасному світі

(Посольство України у Великобританії)

05 березня 2014, 13:51

Велика Британія готова допомогти Україні у вирішенні кризової ситуації. Про це повідомив Посол України у Великій Британії Володимир Хандогій в ефірі BBC News після слухань про ситуацію в Україні в британському Парламенті.

В інтерв'ю Володимир Хандогій відзначив важливу роль Сполученого Королівства у врегулюванні конфлікту як країни-гаранта безпеки України згідно з Будапештським меморандумом.

«Велика Британія разом із іншими членами Євросоюзу готова надати допомогу Україні», – зазначив український дипломат, – «Що більш важливо – не виключаються питання санкцій. Це вселяє надію»

За словами Посла, порушення територіальної цілісності та кордонів України є неприйнятним у сучасному світі.

«Я не вважаю, що сьогоднішній статус кво можна охарактеризувати як захоплення Росією Криму», – зазначив Володимир Хандогій.

Посол наголосив, що Крим є невід'ємною частиною території України, це Автономна Республіка на півдні нашої держави.

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«Ми маємо багато важелів впливу, в тому числі конституційних, для того, що зберегти Крим в межах території України», – сказав дипломат.

Разом з тим Посол Хандогій закликав країни ЄС та ООН допомогти змусити Росію вивести свої війська з території України.

«Ми просимо надати всю можливу допомогу – політичну, моральну, економічну від всієї міжнародної спільноти, в тому числі і від Заходу», – зазначив Володимир Хандогій.

Є.Перелигін дав інтерв'ю для журналу "PANORAMA"

(Посольство України в Італії)

05 березня 2014, 18:32

5 березня ц.р. в загальнонаціональному журналі Італії "PANORAMA" опубліковано інтерв'ю Посла України в Італії Є.Перелигіна. Головну увагу приділено незаконному перебуванню в Криму російських військових угруповань, які блокують роботу місцевих органів влади, інфраструктуру півострова та українські військові та прикордонні бази. Посол України висловився за негайне відведення військових угруповань до бази ЧФ РФ, який перебуває в Криму у відповідності до двосторонніх угод. Є.Перелигін наголосив на нагальній необхідності проведення переговорів з РФ як у дво- так і багатосторонньому форматі із залученням провідних держав та міжнародних організацій. Наприкінці, посол привітав позицію італійських посадовців щодо підтвердження суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України та звернувся до всього італійського суспільства підтримати нашу державу у її європейських прагненнях.

Інтерв'ю: <http://news.panorama.it/oltrefrontiera/L-intervista-all-Ambasciatore-della-Repubblica-di-Ucraina-in-Italia>

Посол України в Італії Євген Перелигін зустрівся з Президентом італійської "Громади Святого Егідія"

(Посольство України в Італії)

06 березня 2014, 15:00

5 березня ц.р. відбулася зустріч Посла України в Італії Є.Перелигіна з Президентом італійської "Громади Святого Егідія" М.Імпальяццо. Під час зустрічі Посол поінформував італійського співрозмовника про розвиток складної ситуації в Україні і, зокрема, в Автономній Республіці Крим. М.Імпальяццо зазначив, що італійська спільнота підтримує Україну в її прагненні якнайшвидшого вирішення ситуації. Президент М.Імпальяццо повідомив, що, у знак солідарності з українським народом, 6 березня ц.р. в м.Рим (Церква Святої Діви марії на Трастевере) та Генуя (Церква Святого Степана) буде проведено релігійні служби задля мирного вирішення ситуації в Україні. Співрозмовники обговорили також можливість проведення Дня солідарності з Україною із залученням до участі в ньому дипломатичного корпусу, акредитованого в Італії, італійських посадовців і представників широких верств населення.

Довідково: Заснована у 1968 році "Громади Святого Егідія" є найавторитетнішою громадською організацією Італії, представленою в понад 70 країнах. Головним завданням громади є допомога бідним та потребуючим в усьому світі.

Посол України в Канаді Вадим Пристайко зустрівся із міністром закордонних справ Канади Дж.Бейрдом

(Посольство України в Канаді)

05 березня 2014, 02:25

Під час зустрічі обговорювались питання внутрішньої ситуації в Україні, а також ескалація напруги в Криму.

У зв'язку з цим міністр Бейрд рішуче засудив агресивні дії Москви, закликавши російську сторону якнайшвидше відкликати своїх військових із суверенної території України.

Співрозмовники серед іншого обговорили питання подальших кроків новопризначеного українського уряду, націлених на стабілізацію політичної та економічної ситуації в країні.

У знак підтримки України, сьогодні на Парламентському пагорбі в Оттаві було піднято Український прапор.

Постійний представник України Ю.Клименко виголосив в рамках Сегменту високого рівня Конференції з роззброєння Звернення України до міжнародної спільноти

(ПП України в Женеві)

05 березня 2014, 14:35

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Yurii KLYMENKO

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Head of the Delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, 05.03.2014)

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to wholeheartedly thank those high dignitaries and delegations who expressed solidarity with Ukraine in these very challenging times for her and called for the importance of strict adherence to international law and commitments.

In the exercise of the Rule 30 of the Rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament my delegation would like to elaborate further on the issues raised in its statement, which was delivered on March 3, 2014.

Leaving the “politicized” issues related to the current situation in Ukraine, as they were qualified by the Russian delegation, to the UN Security Council, I would like to draw the delegations’ attention exclusively to the pressing matters which are of relevance to our work in the CD.

The non-proliferation regime, established by the NPT – one of the landmark disarmament instruments produced by the CD, and negative security assurances, encompassed in the Budapest memorandum of 1994 – part of a wider NPT framework, are, beyond all doubt, of particular significance for our forum and stand in the core of its agenda.

I, therefore, would like to draw your attention to the following Appeal of Ukraine to the International Community.

“Current situation in Ukraine provokes imbalance in the existing international security system and can lead to the violation of the NPT.

20 years ago Ukraine became a member of this regime exclusively under certain conditions. These conditions envisaged granting security assurances to Ukraine by the 5 nuclear states in connection with Ukraine’s joining the NPT as a non-nuclear state. On the 5th of December 1994 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Russian Federation signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances with Ukraine. The French Republic and the People’s Republic of China supported the Memorandum by signing separate declarations.

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During its NPT membership Ukraine has been thoroughly implementing all provisions of the document. Moreover, Ukraine has taken and successfully fulfilled additional obligations in the Nuclear Security Summit framework by getting rid of all its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium.

In 2009 Ukraine raised the issue of acquiring legally-binding security assurances with the aim to reinforce the Budapest Memorandum. Reluctance of the P5 states to undertake such a step was then justified by the absence of a real threat to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and inviolability of its state borders. The Guarantor States have also referred to the comprehensive bilateral agreements with Ukraine.

Today we witness the situation when the Russian Federation attempts to undermine the NPT regime by violating the Budapest Memorandum.

Non-adherence of one Guarantor State – the Russian Federation – to its commitments under the Budapest Memorandum by the military invasion in Ukraine creates situation when the threshold states can consider international legal instruments as insufficient to ensure security, territorial integrity and inviolability of their borders.

Thus, current developments in Ukraine will define future relations of the international community with the states which can choose the nuclear option.

In this regard Ukraine continues to urge its security Guarantor States under the Budapest Memorandum – the NPT nuclear states – to take immediate steps and exert additional pressure on the invader with the aim to preserve the Treaty and avoid mass violations of the NPT, first of all by the threshold states.

We also urge all non-nuclear NPT states to influence the Russian Federation in all possible ways in this regard.

The existing circumstances require immediate effective actions.”

I thank you.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

США

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2014

As part of our continuing close consultations on shared security challenges, the President spoke to Prime Minister Cameron today regarding the events unfolding in Ukraine. The leaders expressed their grave concern over Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, and both noted that the current circumstances are unacceptable. Russia has already started to pay a cost for its actions, such as reducing investor confidence in Russia. The two leaders welcomed the military observer mission being undertaken by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at the request of the Government of Ukraine. They also discussed support for the government of Ukraine as it works to stabilize its economy and makes preparations for elections in May. The leaders agreed to stay in close contact in the days ahead.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Latvian President Andris Berzins

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Vice President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2014

In a telephone call earlier today, Vice President Biden and Latvian President Andris Berzins

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expressed their grave concern over Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and discussed how best to bring about a peaceful resolution. The Vice President reaffirmed the United States' longstanding and continuing commitment to peace and security in the Baltic region.

Ukraine in the White House Press Gaggle Aboard Air Force One

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 5, 2014

PRESS GAGGLE

BY PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY

AND SECRETARY OF LABOR TOM PEREZ

Aboard Air Force One

En Route Hartford, Connecticut

11:45 A.M. EST

MR. CARNEY: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us on our trip today to Connecticut and Massachusetts.

< ... >

MR. CARNEY: Okay. I thought I might have a little more time to prepare. Fire away.

Q Jay, on Ukraine, the President spoke with Russian President Putin for over an hour and a half on Saturday. That conversation, did it move the process forward? Did it help in our relations in what the U.S. is planning to do or asking Russia to do, or did it actually hurt? Because yesterday Putin actually accused the U.S. of being the part of the reason for the underlying issues going on in Ukraine.

MR. CARNEY: Well, it is true that the President spoke with President Putin for about an hour and a half, and expressed our deep concerns to President Putin about Russia's clear violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and in violation of international law, and in violation of agreements that Russia is party to.

I think an evaluation of events since then would suggest that what you've seen is broad international support for the legitimate government of Ukraine; broad condemnation of Russia's actions in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; efforts underway both unilaterally and multilaterally to support the new Ukrainian government and to support Ukraine in this difficult time economically; and multilateral and bilateral and unilateral efforts to consider actions to respond to Russia's actions.

As was noted yesterday, President Putin has indicated a pause in some of the activities of Russian military units, and we are closely monitoring the situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine and broadly across Ukraine. I think it's, as I said yesterday, fair to – I mean, obvious to point out that the suggestion by Russian officials that they are acting, again, in violation of international law, in violation of their own commitments, in order to protect ethnic Russians in Ukraine runs against every verifiable account we have seen about what's happening in Ukraine.

And there is an easy way out for Russia, there is an easy off-ramp, which is to embrace an effort to bring U.N. or OSCE monitors to Crimea so that they can independently assess the situation on the ground, assess the status of ethnic Russians, and ensure that their rights are being protected – because we and many others have made clear that it is very important for the Ukrainian government to assure that the rights of all Ukrainian citizens are protected. But again, there is an easy way out here for Russia, and we certainly hope they take it.

Q Jay, Ukraine's new leader said in an AP interview that while Crimea must stay part of Ukraine, that he's exploring options for Crimea to have more autonomy, which seems to be a recognition that the stepped-up Russian influence in this area is not likely to go away any time

soon. Would that be an acceptable outcome to the United States?

MR. CARNEY: Well, it is not for us or any state besides Ukraine to decide what the relationship of any of its regions is to the rest of Ukraine or the capital. That is for Ukraine to decide, for the Ukrainian people, for the Ukrainian parliament, for the Ukrainian government. So I don't have a view to express on that.

It is obviously the case that, as we have noted, that Russia has interests in Crimea and Ukraine. Russia has a military base that it established there through an agreement between the Russian government and the Ukrainian government. And we are simply, with our allies and partners, calling on Russia to ensure that its military forces are returned to their bases and that Russia comply with the agreement it has with Ukraine as to the status of its military presence in Crimea. But there's no question that there are ethnic Russians in Crimea, there are ethnic Russians in other parts of Ukraine. And it's an important part of our view in is that Ukraine needs to – the Ukrainian government needs to make sure that the rights of ethnic Russians are protected. I would say that there's no indication that those rights have not been protected, and, in fact, the Ukrainian government has – the new Ukrainian government has behaved very responsibly since it came into office.

Q Do you have information for us on the status of Ukraine observers – observers proceeding in Ukraine, or the status of IMF loans and the EU's commitment? Any calls to read out, any updates on Ukraine?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I can tell you a few things. As you know, Secretary Kerry was in Kyiv yesterday and is in Paris today talking with the Ukrainians, our allies and partners, and the Russians. He also worked with the United Kingdom and Ukraine to hold a meeting of the signatories of the Budapest Memorandum, to which Russia was invited but chose not to attend. As you know, that document reaffirms the obligation set out in the U.N. charter that signatories respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

And I expect Secretary Kerry – either has just or will be, or is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov as well separately in Paris. The President obviously has been in regular contact with allies and partners, as have other members of his national security team. And we are working, as we noted yesterday, on a package of assistance to Ukraine that would complement an IMF effort. But beyond the details we released yesterday, I don't have anything new on that. When it comes to the question of further action, sanctions and the like, we're considering a range of options, but that work is still ongoing.

<...>

Q May I ask you one last one on Ukraine?

When you say that Putin indicated a pause in escalation here, does that almost mean that the administration is pausing on its drive towards sanctions?

MR. CARNEY: We've made clear that it is an absolute clear-cut violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity to take the steps that Russia has taken, and that's why we urge Russia to very quickly and immediately begin a dialogue with the government of Ukraine, pull back Russia's military forces to their bases, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity, and allow for the urgent deployment of observers and human rights monitors, and that they resist making more threats and issuing more distortions.

The fact of what's been described as a pause reflects some of what we've seen on the ground and certainly what President Putin described in his press conference.

Q Prime Minister Harper has asked for a G7 meeting on this. What does the White House think of that idea? Is it open to that?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we're coordinating very closely with all members of the G7. As you know, collectively, we've suspended participation and preparations for the G8 in Sochi, and we'll continue to work with members of the G7 going forward.

I don't have any announcements to make about potential meetings of the G7.

Q Are you concerned at all that the Europeans seem less interested in sanctions, and that the U.S., if it were to go down that route, might find itself isolated?

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MR. CARNEY: I would say that we have worked very closely and continue to work closely with our European partners and allies on this matter. We have issued – I mean, NATO has issued a statement, the G7 partners have issued statements, and all sounding the same notes of condemnation and concern, and urging Russia to roll back what it's done and to avail itself of the way out, if you will, by allowing monitors into Crimea and other parts of Ukraine.

We are working with our European partners on actions that can be taken in response to this, and feel very good about the efforts that are undertaken in a cooperative way with the European partners.

<...>

END 12:01 P.M. EST

Video of Secretary of State John Kerry at The Shrine to The Fallen Heroes

March 5, 2014

On March 4, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited the Shrine to the Fallen Heroes on Institutska Street in Kyiv. The Secretary extended his deepest condolences on behalf of the United States to those who lost loved-ones and honored the dead by placing flowers and a candle at the Shrine. Near the Shrine, Secretary Kerry met with interfaith religious leaders His Holiness Filaret, Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate; His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Archbishop of Kyiv and Galicia, Head of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Sheikh Akhmed Tamim, Mufti of Ukraine, Chairman of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Ukraine; Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, Chief Rabbi of Ukraine; Rabbi Alexander Dukhovny, Chief Rabbi of Progressive Jewish Congregations of Kyiv and Ukraine; His Beatitude Mefodiy, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine and Head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; Roman Catholic Archbishop Petro Malchuk; Vyacheslav Nesteruk, Chairman, All-Ukraine Baptist Union; and Mykhaylo Panochko, Chairman of the All-Ukrainian Pentecostal Union.

The video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujjjQaB2jAA&feature=c4-overview&list=UUIJNzh9PUPBlpgrjFxGt1-Q>

Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry, British Foreign Secretary William Hague, and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Deshchytsia at Top of Tripartite Agreement Ministerial

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2014

Chief of Mission Residence

Paris, France

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we're glad to have our friends here from Ukraine and from Great Britain, partners in the Budapest Agreement of 1994, regrettably missing one member, but we will be meeting, hopefully this afternoon, with that additional member. So we look forward to our own discussion this morning. We appreciate you being here. Thank you.

William, do you want to say anything?

FOREIGN SECRETARY HAGUE: Well, it is absolutely right that we have met for consultations under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. And that is provided for in Article 6 of the memorandum, and in such a crisis it's absolutely right to meet. It is regrettable – exactly as you said, John – that Russia is not here with us. But we will make every diplomatic effort today to bring Russia and Ukraine into direct contact at ministerial level with the support of other nations. And this is one opportunity to do that; we will try to create other opportunities later today.

FOREIGN MINISTER DESHCHYTSIA: I'll say a few words also?

SECRETARY KERRY: Of course, Andrii, absolutely.

FOREIGN MINISTER DESHCHYTSIA: As an equal partner in the Budapest Memorandum. (Laughter.)

SECRETARY KERRY: No, no, no.

FOREIGN MINISTER DESHCHYTSIA: And I'm very glad that we have these consultations here, and that during these days we've had so many consultations in Ukraine – your visit, and with Secretary Hague and with Secretary Kerry two days ago, yesterday, so now we have these consultations here. It's very decisive and important moment, and we are looking very much forward that we will be also having consultations with Russia bilaterally and multilaterally.

SECRETARY KERRY: I'm just going to read two paragraphs from the Russian Federation Commission[i]: “The United States of America and the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reaffirm their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.”

It also says the same parties – the United States, the Russian Federation, et cetera – “In accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act” – that's Helsinki – “to refrain from economic coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by Ukraine of the rights inherent in its sovereignty.” So there are very clear legal obligations that are at risk in this, and we're going to talk about those here this morning. So thank you all very much.

FOREIGN MINISTER DESHCHYTSIA: Thank you very much.

FOREIGN SECRETARY HAGUE: Thank you.

U.S./UK/Ukraine Press Statement on the Budapest Memorandum Meeting

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2014

MEDIA NOTE

On 5 March 2014, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a meeting in Paris with the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, William Hague, and the Acting Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Andriy Deshchytzia.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the urgent question of the Budapest Memorandum, the agreement signed by the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Russia in 1994. The United States had conveyed an invitation to the Russian Federation to the meeting. We deeply regret that the Russian Federation declined to attend.

The Budapest Memorandum sets out the obligations of signatories in return for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons. Under its terms, the three parties commit to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity. The Memorandum also obliges the UK, US and Russia to consult in the event of a situation arising where the memorandum commitments are questioned.

Ukraine voluntarily surrendered the world's third largest nuclear weapons arsenal in exchange for these assurances. The three Governments treat these assurances with utmost seriousness, and expect Russia to as well. Russia has chosen to act unilaterally and militarily. The United Kingdom and United States will continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and we commend the new Ukrainian government for not taking actions that might escalate the situation. Russia's continued violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity can only degrade Russia's international standing and lead to greater political and

economic consequences.

In the meeting, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine discussed steps needed to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and called on Russia to engage in consultations with Ukraine as they have committed to in the Budapest memorandum.

The United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine agreed that direct talks between Ukraine and Russia, facilitated as needed by members of the international community, are crucial to resolving the current situation. They also agreed that international observers should be deployed immediately in Ukraine, especially in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. The three governments reaffirmed the importance of protecting the rights of all Ukrainian citizens, and believed that international observers would help address any concerns regarding irregular forces, military activity and the treatment of all Ukrainians irrespective of their ethnicity or spoken language.

Ukraine in the State Department Daily Press Briefing

March 5, 2014

QUESTION: All right. Yeah. So there was some breaking – semi-breaking stuff out there on Ukraine that you may – I'm sure you're probably aware of, and that is the situation with Robert Serry. Are you in a position – do you know what is actually happening on the ground there with him?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have additional details. We've seen the same reports on Twitter and that have been reported out there. I understand that the UN has come out and said it was incorrect that he was abducted in some way, which had been reported. But beyond that in terms of the specifics of his travel plans, I'd point you to the UN.

QUESTION: You don't – okay. So in other – when you say specifics of his travel plans, this – it's now being reported that he is going to – he has agreed to leave –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – and that he's – you're not aware if that's true?

MS. PSAKI: I have seen those reports. I don't have any confirmation of that of whether it's accurate or not.

QUESTION: All right. So a little bit earlier in the day – do you have anything to say about the OSCE monitors being blocked?

MS. PSAKI: So our understanding –

QUESTION: And forgive me if this was already addressed in Paris. I don't know if it was.

MS. PSAKI: It may have been, but I'm happy to also address it. Our understanding is that the monitors had difficulty moving into the area today. They're going to try again. Obviously, if Russia and the Russian authorities want to make sure that minority rights are being looked out for and ensure that that is taking place, letting in the monitors is a key part of that process. There are some representatives of OSCE on the ground, so this is just specific to –

QUESTION: You mean already?

MS. PSAKI: Already. Exactly.

QUESTION: Right. And then were there any American members of this OSCE contingent that you're aware of?

MS. PSAKI: That's a good question. I'd have to check on that.

QUESTION: All right. And my last one on Ukraine is –

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: – have you heard this latest audio tape of apparently bugged conversation between Catherine Ashton and the foreign minister?

MS. PSAKI: We have seen the reports of it, yes. And –

QUESTION: Have you listened to it?

MS. PSAKI: I have not had a chance to listen to it yet.

QUESTION: It's very high quality. In stereo, too.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm. As seems to be the theme.

QUESTION: Yeah. In that call, the foreign minister – and forgive me, what country is the foreign minister from?

QUESTION: Estonia.

QUESTION: Estonia. The Estonian foreign minister says something about suspicions that the snipers, the people who fired on protestors in the square, were not directed to do so by the then president, but rather by the protestors themselves. Do you have – do U.S. officials share this suspicion?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I know you're asking about the content, which I don't have anything for you on. But –

QUESTION: Right. Quite apart from it, it's out there that a foreign minister of – a NATO member says that there are these suspicions. Do you share those suspicions?

MS. PSAKI: Well, not that I'm aware of, Matt. But broadly speaking in terms of this report, we don't have any – we've seen the reports. We don't have any confirmation of the validity of this call or confirmation that there wasn't any doctoring of the call either. So it's hard to speak to the content as it's been reported.

QUESTION: Well, just about – how about – does the United States have any reason to believe that the people who were doing the shooting in Kyiv were not doing so under the orders of the president and, in fact, were doing so under orders of people affiliated, at least, with the opposition?

MS. PSAKI: I don't – that's not a discussion that I'm aware of internally here being had. But obviously, the context of where this information was reportedly coming from is important here too.

QUESTION: Okay. And then last thing: Do you have any comment in general on the release of such a phone call since – particularly since one of your own colleagues was victimized, if that's the right word, in a very similar fashion on the same subject not so long ago?

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm. Well, Matt, obviously these reports just came out. But as I said around the last unfortunate case, this is just another example of the kind of Russian statecraft that we have strong concerns about. And we don't, again, know the content. I can't verify the content of the call, that the call hasn't been doctored in any way. So we'll see that report itself out and look for confirmation from individuals in the countries.

QUESTION: Sorry. You said statecraft, but the first time around with Toria's conversation you said – I think it was tradecraft. Is that what you meant to say?

MS. PSAKI: Tradecraft. Sorry. Tradecraft, not statecraft. Thank you for correcting me.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS. PSAKI: Please note in the transcript. (Laughter.) Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah, just related to the discussion just concluded, do you believe that it's a mistake perhaps to dismiss completely the narrative of the former government and the former president of Ukraine – their side of the story?

MS. PSAKI: In what capacity, Said?

QUESTION: In the capacity that you are adopting – you have adopted the story of the new government, and that was proven by these high-level visits by the Secretary of State no less, and others and so on, that you're taking their narrative of what has really happened and not, let's say, the former government. We don't hear anything about –

MS. PSAKI: I would refute that notion. I think we've been very clear, the Secretary has been clear, the President of the United States has been clear, that there is an off-ramp here for Russia. They can withdraw their troops. They can call for an end to these aggressive steps that they've taken. Our focus is on a stable and economically prosperous Ukraine. Certainly, we view the new government as legitimately representing the people. They're all looking ahead to elections, and so that's what all of our focus remains on.

QUESTION: Would that off-ramp or should that off-ramp include some sort of a commitment or a promise that Ukraine will not become a member of NATO in their backyard, in their own

backyard, so to speak?

MS. PSAKI: Well, there's a NATO process that NATO oversees, so I would point you to them on that.

Do we have any more on Ukraine, or shall we move on to a new subject?

QUESTION: If I might just ask a very straightforward question –

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: – about what do you have to say about the meeting with Foreign Minister Lavrov and the Secretary?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, it's ongoing – the meeting is – and the purpose – part of the message that the Secretary will deliver today is that Russia needs to stop its military intervention in Ukraine, let international monitors in to verify that the rights of all Ukrainians are being respected, join an international effort to de-escalate the situation and assure the stability of Ukraine and the region, entering into immediate and direct dialogue with the Ukrainian Government, and respect Ukraine's democratic future. We are believers in diplomacy. I'm not going to predict that all will be resolved from one meeting, certainly not, but that is the message the Secretary will be delivering today.

QUESTION: Are you having problems with – in your efforts towards diplomacy with Europe, presenting a unified and cohesive front in terms of sanctions against Russia?

MS. PSAKI: Well, there were some steps that were announced today by the EU in terms of implementing sanctions in Ukraine, so I'd point you to that. But I will say that today and over the coming days, the Secretary, the President, U.S. officials will be very closely engaged with the EU in terms of coordinating and discussing details of sanctions options that are under consideration. So we're very closely intertwined.

The Secretary spoke with German Foreign Minister Steinmeier this morning. He'll be in Paris as well, but he was en route. So he spoke with him. They talked about how this is a critical moment, how it's important to present a strong and united front, and they'll be engaging in that discussion over the coming days.

QUESTION: Given the fact that European nations have a much higher volume of trade with Russia and are much more dependent on trade with Russia, does that present a problem in getting the EU and European nations to go along with what Secretary Kerry and the President want?

MS. PSAKI: Well, they do have a – you're right, they do have a closer tied trade relationship. However, if you look at what a range of officials from European capitals have said about the situation in Ukraine, they've been very clear about their willingness and openness to taking steps to hold officials, whether they're officials in Ukraine or Russia, accountable. And that is what the discussion is about at this point.

QUESTION: And finally, do you view the test launch of the ICBM yesterday as a threatening gesture, perhaps an effort to drive a wedge between the United States and Europeans as these negotiations go forward?

MS. PSAKI: We don't – this was a previously notified and routine test launch of an ICBM. As required under the New START Treaty, Russia provided advance notification of this launch to the United States. Such advance notification is, of course, intended to provide transparency, confidence, and predictability, and we routinely – Russia and the United States routinely flight test their ICBMS. So we don't view it in that manner.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: If you can provide us a list of the countries where you have least at the level of secretary or deputy secretary on Ukraine issues – we know there are a few countries (inaudible).

MS. PSAKI: Where the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary have engaged--

QUESTION: Yes.

MS. PSAKI: – have discussed, have been in touch with?

QUESTION: Yes. Yeah.

MS. PSAKI: Okay. Sure.

QUESTION: The – your global outreach on Ukrainian issue.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Okay. Absolutely.

Any more on Ukraine, or we'll move on? Ukraine?

QUESTION: Yes. I would like to come back to the phone call, the leaked phone call –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – since Toria Nuland's phone call was very, very similarly leaked. Back then, it was called Russian tradecraft, the – not the recording of the phone call but the leaking of it, and this time it's been attributed to – for some reason to the – to Yanukovich's own secret service, and it's still being leaked via Russia Today, RT. So my question is: The last time when it happened to the State Department officials and diplomats, did you – was there an inquiry as to how was this phone call compromised, by whom, and what's – what was this – what – where did it come from?

MS. PSAKI: I just don't have any details of that to share with all of you. And I certainly, as I didn't last time, have any confirmation of the source of the leaks or the mechanism of recording. But obviously, these issues raise concerns, which is why we express them.

QUESTION: Can I just follow up?

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: I don't hang around here as much as I should, Jen, and I apologize for that.

MS. PSAKI: Come on over. We have a good time. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: The last I heard, you weren't acknowledging that it was actually Assistant Secretary Nuland's voice on that tape, but you're not knocking down the premise of any of these questions.

MS. PSAKI: No, that wasn't actually what happened at the time.

QUESTION: Okay, so you're acknowledging that it was her voice?

MS. PSAKI: I don't – we litigated this a couple of weeks ago, but this is obviously a different case that's unrelated to any U.S. officials. So obviously, I wouldn't be weighing in on the validity of it.

QUESTION: But the premise of these questions is that it was Toria's voice on those tapes.

MS. PSAKI: I think the premise of these questions is also about the recently leaked information today.

FACT SHEET: President Putin's Fiction: 10 False Claims about Ukraine

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2014

As Russia spins a false narrative to justify its illegal actions in Ukraine, the world has not seen such startling Russian fiction since Dostoyevsky wrote, "The formula 'two plus two equals five' is not without its attractions."

Below are 10 of President Vladimir Putin's recent claims justifying Russian aggression in the Ukraine, followed by the facts that his assertions ignore or distort.

1. Mr. Putin says: *Russian forces in Crimea are only acting to protect Russian military assets. It is "citizens' defense groups," not Russian forces, who have seized infrastructure and military facilities in Crimea.*

The Facts: Strong evidence suggests that members of Russian security services are at the heart of the highly organized anti-Ukraine forces in Crimea. While these units wear uniforms without insignia, they drive vehicles with Russian military license plates and freely identify themselves as Russian security forces when asked by the international media and the Ukrainian military. Moreover, these individuals are armed with weapons not generally available to civilians.

2. Mr. Putin says: *Russia's actions fall within the scope of the 1997 Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.*

The Facts: The 1997 agreement requires Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia's military actions in Ukraine, which have given them operational control of Crimea, are in clear violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

3. Mr. Putin says: *The opposition failed to implement the February 21 agreement with former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.*

The Facts: The February 21 agreement laid out a plan in which the Rada, or Parliament, would pass a bill to return Ukraine to its 2004 Constitution, thus returning the country to a constitutional system centered around its parliament. Under the terms of the agreement, Yanukovich was to sign the enacting legislation within 24 hours and bring the crisis to a peaceful conclusion. Yanukovich refused to keep his end of the bargain. Instead, he packed up his home and fled, leaving behind evidence of wide-scale corruption.

4. Mr. Putin says: *Ukraine's government is illegitimate. Yanukovich is still the legitimate leader of Ukraine.*

The Facts: On March 4, President Putin himself acknowledged the reality that Yanukovich "has no political future." After Yanukovich fled Ukraine, even his own Party of Regions turned against him, voting to confirm his withdrawal from office and to support the new government. Ukraine's new government was approved by the democratically elected Ukrainian Parliament, with 371 votes – more than an 82% majority. The interim government of Ukraine is a government of the people, which will shepherd the country toward democratic elections on May 25th – elections that will allow all Ukrainians to have a voice in the future of their country.

5. Mr. Putin says: *There is a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands are fleeing Ukraine to Russia and seeking asylum.*

The Facts: To date, there is absolutely no evidence of a humanitarian crisis. Nor is there evidence of a flood of asylum-seekers fleeing Ukraine for Russia. International organizations on the ground have investigated by talking with Ukrainian border guards, who also refuted these claims. Independent journalists observing the border have also reported no such flood of refugees.

6. Mr. Putin says: *Ethnic Russians are under threat.*

The Facts: Outside of Russian press and Russian state television, there are no credible reports of any ethnic Russians being under threat. The new Ukrainian government placed a priority on peace and reconciliation from the outset. President Oleksandr Turchynov refused to sign legislation limiting the use of the Russian language at regional level. Ethnic Russians and Russian speakers have filed petitions attesting that their communities have not experienced threats. Furthermore, since the new government was established, calm has returned to Kyiv. There has been no surge in crime, no looting, and no retribution against political opponents.

7. Mr. Putin says: *Russian bases are under threat.*

The Facts: Russian military facilities were and remain secure, and the new Ukrainian government has pledged to abide by all existing international agreements, including those covering Russian bases. It is Ukrainian bases in Crimea that are under threat from Russian military action.

8. Mr. Putin says: *There have been mass attacks on churches and synagogues in southern and eastern Ukraine.*

The Facts: Religious leaders in the country and international religious freedom advocates active in Ukraine have said there have been no incidents of attacks on churches. All of Ukraine's church leaders, including representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate, have expressed support for the new political leadership, calling for national unity and a period of healing. Jewish groups in southern and eastern Ukraine report that they have not seen an increase in anti-Semitic incidents.

9. Mr. Putin says: *Kyiv is trying to destabilize Crimea.*

The Facts: Ukraine's interim government has acted with restraint and sought dialogue. Russian troops, on the other hand, have moved beyond their bases to seize political objectives and infrastructure in Crimea. The government in Kyiv immediately sent the former Chief of Defense

to defuse the situation. Petro Poroshenko, the latest government emissary to pursue dialogue in Crimea, was prevented from entering the Crimean Rada.

10. Mr. Putin says: *The Rada is under the influence of extremists or terrorists.*

The Facts: The Rada is the most representative institution in Ukraine. Recent legislation has passed with large majorities, including from representatives of eastern Ukraine. Far-right wing ultranationalist groups, some of which were involved in open clashes with security forces during the EuroMaidan protests, are not represented in the Rada. There is no indication that the Ukrainian government would pursue discriminatory policies; on the contrary, they have publicly stated exactly the opposite.

Setting the Record Straight on Ukraine

March 5, 2014

Claim: We need to return to the February 21 agreement, which the opposition failed to implement.

Response: As part of the agreement, the Ukrainian Parliament (the Rada) passed a bill to return Ukraine to the 2004 Constitution. Under the terms of the agreement, Yanukovich had 24 hours to sign this legislation, after which the protesters would need to evacuate certain government buildings and take other de-escalatory steps. Instead of signing the legislation, Yanukovich left Kyiv and ultimately Ukraine. Yanukovich is the one who failed to implement the February 21 agreement. Yanukovich's party has moved on, voting in favor of legislation removing him from office and establishing a new government.

Ambassador Power: "It was Yanukovich who failed to abide by the terms of that agreement, fleeing Kyiv, and ultimately Ukraine."

Claim: Ukraine's government is illegitimate or not representative.

Response: The new government was approved by the Rada with 371 votes, an overwhelming majority of Ukraine's parliament, with the support of all political parties except the Communists. Even Yanukovich's Party of Regions (POR) voted in favor of the new government just days after he disappeared. While POR is not represented in the current government, this is a political decision and does not indicate lack of support for the policies of the government. In fact, almost all legislation passed by parliament since Yanukovich's departure has enjoyed majority support from POR.

Claim: The Rada is under the influence of extremists or terrorists.

Response: The Rada is the most representative institution in Ukraine, and recent legislation has passed with large majorities, including from representatives of eastern Ukraine.

Claim: The streets of Kyiv are dangerous.

Response: Since the security forces pulled back 10 days ago and the new government has been established, calm has returned to Kyiv. Ukrainian and other media present report that there has been no surge in crime, no looting, and no retribution exacted on political opponents.

Claim: There is a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands are fleeing Ukraine to Russia and seeking asylum.

Response: We have seen absolutely no evidence of this. The best means to prevent such a crisis from happening would be to cease all provocative actions and allow observers into the region to monitor and lower tensions.

Ukrainian Border Guards: "Migration of Ukrainians remained approximately at the same level that was one week, two, three years ago." <http://www.unian.net/politics/892071-massovogyiezda-ukraintsev-v-rossiyu-net-pogranichniki.html>

Claim: Ethnic Russians are under threat.

Response: There are no confirmed reports of any ethnic Russians being threatened, only allegations in the Russian press and on Russian state television. The new Ukrainian government has placed a priority on peace and reconciliation from the outset. President Turchinov refused to

sign the legislation limiting the use of the Russian language at regional level. The U.S. and others, including the EU, have welcomed the Ukrainian government's inclusive approach.

Ambassador Power: "There is no evidence that ethnic Russians are in danger. On the contrary, the new Ukrainian government has placed a priority on internal reconciliation and political inclusivity. President Turchinov – the acting President – has made clear his opposition to any restriction on the use of the Russian tongue."

Assistant Secretary Nuland: "The OSCE has the tools to address any legitimate concerns with regard to security on the ground, with regard to minority rights, and with regard to preparations for this democratic transition to lead to free and fair elections."

Kazakhstani MFA Spokesperson Zhanbolat Usenov: "Kazakhstan calls on all parties to renounce options that imply the use of power and make maximum political efforts to resolve the current crisis by means of negotiations."

Claim: Russian bases are under threat.

Response: Russian military facilities were and remain secure, and the new Ukrainian government has pledged to abide by all existing international agreements, including those covering Russian bases.

Ambassador Power: "The central issue is whether the recent change of government in Ukraine constitutes a danger to Russia's legitimate interests of such a nature and extent that Russia is justified in intervening militarily in Ukraine, seizing control of public facilities, and issuing military ultimatums to elements of the Ukrainian military. The answer, of course, is no."

Claim: Kyiv is trying to destabilize Crimea.

Response: On the contrary, Russian troops moved out of their bases to seize political objectives and infrastructure in Crimea. Ukraine's government, in contrast, has acted with restraint and sought dialogue. The government in Kyiv immediately sent the former Chief of Defense to defuse the situation. The latest emissary, Petro Poroshenko, was prevented from entering the Crimean Rada to talk.

Claim: There have been mass attacks on churches in Eastern Ukraine.

Response: We have seen no evidence of this. All of Ukraine's church leaders, including representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, have come out in support of the new political establishment, calling for national unity and a period of healing.

Ambassador Power: "There is no evidence, for example, that churches in Eastern Ukraine are being or will be attacked; the allegation is without basis."

Eight Ukrainian churches and religious organizations issued an appeal for peace and against foreign aggression; their letter is on the website of The Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine at <http://t.co/CF31axsK8O>. In it, they "call the Russian authorities to come to senses and stop its aggression against Ukraine, and immediately pull out Russian troops from the Ukrainian land." This letter was signed by representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Catholic Church, other Christian denominations, the Jewish faith, and the Muslim faith.

Claim: The Crimean "Prime Minister" invited Russian intervention.

Response: International law does not provide for use of force at the invitation of a regional government. Under the Ukrainian Constitution, only the Ukrainian Rada can approve the presence of foreign troops in Ukrainian territory. Sergei Aksyonov's appeal to President Putin to provide "peace and tranquility" in Crimea was a cynical exercise in destabilization.

Claim: Russia's actions fall within the scope of the 1997 Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Response: The 1997 agreement requires Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia's military actions in Ukraine are in clear violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Assistant Secretary Nuland: "We consider Russia's actions in Ukraine to be a ... breach of Russia's Helsinki Commitments and its UN obligations."

G7 Leaders statement: Russia's military actions are "in contravention of Russia's obligations under the UN Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine."

Chinese MFA Spokesperson Qin Gang: "We respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Ukraine in the State Department Daily Press Briefing

March 5, 2014

QUESTION: So I wasn't going to begin with Ukraine, because there's been so much about it, but after having just watched Senator McCain's dramatic rereading of – or dramatic reading of the Putin press conference in near entirety on the Senate floor, I guess I'll start with that.

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

QUESTION: He, in this – in his comments, talked about how yes, you obviously don't go to the G8 and Sochi, obviously you – or then, in his mind, obviously you throw Russia out of the G8, make it the G7, you go ahead with the visa bans, you go ahead with the financial sanctions, you go – well, my question is this: Recognizing that you're preparing, or you have been preparing, ideas, at least, of these sanctions, has it – have you decided that it's just a question of when and specifically who might be affected by these sanctions? Or – I mean, has – have the Russians reached the point of no return in terms of you imposing sanctions, or if they were to de-escalate, pull back, is that something that you would – that you might consider taking off the table?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think if – our preference here, of course, is not to escalate in any capacity, and certainly the military intervention or the military steps are what – are of greatest concern, as you know. But we've always said, and the Secretary said today, and the President said, there is an off-ramp here, and Russia can take that off-ramp by withdrawing their troops and taking additional steps. If they do that, certainly there wouldn't be a need for additional steps on our end.

QUESTION: So the horse isn't out of the barn on this, to – going back to your –

MS. PSAKI: There are certainly –

QUESTION: I mean, they can do – there are things that they can do to avoid the imposition of things beyond the not sending a delegation to the Paralympics, beyond the cancelation of the military exercise, beyond –

MS. PSAKI: We would welcome that, Matt, but we evaluate every day, of course.

QUESTION: So it's – let me just – I just want to make sure.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So it's not a done deal that sanctions are going to be – additional steps are going to be taken? There's still time for the Russians to climb down?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. If later today or tomorrow they would like to take steps to withdraw their troops, we would welcome that, and certainly that would impact the steps we're considering or may take as well.

QUESTION: All right. And are you intending to say tomorrow, so it's like a deadline, if you don't do anything by tomorrow then you're going to get hit?

MS. PSAKI: No, I'm not. I'm just welcoming –

QUESTION: All right.

MS. PSAKI: – if they would like to engage in those steps tomorrow.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: Jo.

QUESTION: Can I just go to the question – there's reports coming out that Russia has tested some kind of advanced ballistic missile.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Are you in a position to be able to confirm those? And was this something that you know of advanced, or is it something that's alarming to you, given the tensions at the moment?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I did see those reports. I know they just came out. I don't have any

independent information to confirm any of those reports. Obviously, any report of action that is – would be seen as additional military intervention or provocative in any nature would be of concern to us, and we’re watching it closely. But again, I know these reports just came out, and I haven’t had a chance to kind of communicate with our team about them quite yet.

QUESTION: Okay. So you don’t know if you were informed in advance or if –

MS. PSAKI: I don’t have any other details about it, other than what I just conveyed.

QUESTION: Okay. Thank you.

QUESTION: Could you please, if I may –

MS. PSAKI: Let’s just go ahead, Arshad. Do you have anything?

QUESTION: It’s a different – it’s Egypt, so –

MS. PSAKI: Okay. Let’s finish Ukraine, and then we’ll go to Egypt if that works.

QUESTION: Yeah.

QUESTION: I asked you last week on the issue of recognition of the new government in the Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Can you tell us what is the status of this? I mean, are you recognizing the new government? Is this – or is it a continuation of the former government? What is the actual status of this?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think as I said to you last week, as a standard process or a procedure, we don’t recognize governments. However, the fact that the Secretary is on the ground, he’s meeting with members – or he has met, I should say, he’s already departed – with members of the new government, he believes they have taken steps, you heard him say today, to move the ball forward. They’re taking steps toward an election. They’re taking steps to be inclusive. They’re taking steps to de-escalate. Those are all positive things. And the fact that he’s on the ground should be the indication you need about how closely we’re working with the new government.

QUESTION: And now the only reason from, let’s say, yesterday’s briefing on the phone, over the phone – the only reason that the former president is illegitimate is the fact that he fled, correct?

MS. PSAKI: Well –

QUESTION: Is there any other reason that you consider him to be illegitimate?

MS. PSAKI: I think, to look at the history here, Said, he not only fled; he kind of left a leadership void in his country. I think even I would point you to President Putin and what he said himself about whether there’s a future for Yanukovich as the leader of Ukraine. So I don’t know that there’s anyone who’s suggesting that he is the future of leadership in the country.

QUESTION: Yeah. I mean, I understand he was corrupt, all kinds of things, but – actually, he was not, let’s say, indicted of these charges. But as far as you’re concerned, the fact that he left delegitimizes him, correct?

MS. PSAKI: He has lost his legitimacy.

Arshad.

QUESTION: On the – can I just steal from him?

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

QUESTION: Do you have any specific comment about Putin’s performance today? Do you have any thoughts about that at all?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I know that the President and the Secretary have both spoken to it, but I will say that his rhetoric is far from the reality of what’s happening on the ground. And you saw the Secretary go point by point, but the fact is that Russian military forces, as we all know, have taken over Ukrainian border posts. It’s a fact that Russia has surrounded or taken over practically all of the Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea. It’s a fact that yesterday Russian jets entered Ukrainian airspace. So – and I could certainly go on from there. But that is our view of what was conveyed. Obviously we still do feel there’s an off-ramp, as I mentioned. But –

QUESTION: Right. Okay.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm. Any more on Ukraine? Ukraine.

QUESTION: Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Okay. In the lovely orange.

QUESTION: I'd like to ask on U.S. assistance, this \$1 billion for Ukraine –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm. Sure.

QUESTION: – and part of it will go to elections in Ukraine. Now, the elections are end of May, so two and a half months. What exactly are the programs of assistance? Because, for instance, short-term monitoring requires at least three months; long-term election monitoring requires six, seven, eight months. So what exactly those programs will be?

MS. PSAKI: Well, there are a bunch of steps. So – and there is a fact sheet, but let me just reiterate these for all of you. There's one billion in loan guarantees, which is aimed at helping insulate vulnerable Ukrainians from the effects of energy subsidies. That is that particular piece. And we're, of course, moving quickly to provide technical expertise to help the National Bank of Ukraine and the Ministry of Finance address their most pressing challenges. This will complement any effort and work being done by the IMF and also contributions, of course, by other countries.

We are also separately providing training for technical assistance – technical assistance to train election observers. Are you asking when they'll be on the ground, or when specifically they'll move to the ground? That's a good question. I'm sure we'll work to do that quickly, but I don't have an exact update on their arrival. And we're also deploying an interagency team of experts this week to begin to work with Ukrainian counterparts to identify assets that may have been stolen and identify their current location and assist in returning those assets. So there were a couple of steps that Secretary Kerry announced today, and there was a fact sheet that went out from the White House.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS. PSAKI: Go ahead. Ukraine?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

QUESTION: You mentioned that there's an off-ramp, and if Russia were to de-escalate, then the sanctions that you're talking about may not be imposed. But Congress might not have the same position on that and may be less charitable. And as you know, Congress is formulating its own sanctions plans. I just wondered how much coordination there is between the Administration and Congress on that.

MS. PSAKI: Of course we work very closely with Congress. I think the important context, though, here is yes, as I said yesterday, and as many others have said, we are moving forward. We are preparing a range of options in the event that Russia continues to move down this path. Obviously, we haven't made a decision about that. It hasn't been announced. So those discussions are ongoing internally about what they will be, how it would be, when we would roll it out.

QUESTION: Is there a possibility that Congress would seek to compel the Administration to act in a way that it feels is appropriate?

MS. PSAKI: Of course. Congress can take steps or may take steps as they see appropriate. However, I think the point I was making is that obviously, there's an opportunity for Russia to take a different path than they've been taking, and that would naturally, as I think you would all expect, impact what steps the Administration would take.

QUESTION: And can I just ask one kind of follow-up question on the types of sanctions that are being considered? Because the Secretary's spoken about freezing assets and visa restrictions or visa bans. Is – does the menu of options include the possibility of – and those are all against individuals – sanctions against the Russian economy or commercial interests, possible trade restrictions impacting the energy sector, for example?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I don't want to go into too much detail. Obviously, as I said yesterday, if they proceed down this path, it is likely we will proceed down our own path, which reflects a range of options including individuals, financial sector. Those are all under consideration, but

I'm not going to detail them further at this point.

QUESTION: So something which would attack the – Russia's economy as well as individuals is part of the broad gamut of options which are being considered?

MS. PSAKI: Of options? Sure. There's a range of options that are at our disposal. It doesn't reflect that we may go down one or the other. Obviously, this is evaluated day by day.

QUESTION: Can I just follow up?

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: You say that there's nothing – no decision's been made yet, nothing rolled out. Obviously, otherwise, we'd know about it. But I understand there was, from some officials who were traveling with the Secretary, they hinted at possible sanctions later on this week. Is that –

MS. PSAKI: I don't have anything – obviously, this is a discussion that's being had at a very serious level, given we've been talking about this. But I don't have anything to convey to you about what, when, how at this point, and obviously, we're taking a look at it day to day. That is what I was meaning to reflect.

QUESTION: So yesterday, in the briefing on the phone, you said that you're preparing something. How far along the line have you got? Have you got a document that's ready to go, it just needs to be signed, or –

MS. PSAKI: I'm just not going to outline that level of detail. Go ahead in the back.

QUESTION: On the sanctions, Senator Menendez put out a statement yesterday saying that his panel is working with the Administration –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – to have possible sanctions against individual Russians as well as Ukrainians. Can you confirm that there are Ukrainians that are also going to be targeted with –

MS. PSAKI: Well, we've already put in place, I believe it was two weeks ago, visa bans on a specific list of Ukrainians, and we've always said that we would maintain a range of options that we could use. So that hasn't changed. That's perhaps the less newsy part of what we've been talking about this week.

QUESTION: One more? Many –

MS. PSAKI: On Ukraine?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

QUESTION: Many U.S. allies are interdependent on Russia as far as energy and economic situation is concerned. So how it's going to affect especially those U.S. allies in the region?

MS. PSAKI: You're talking about – I'm not –

QUESTION: Energy and the – also economic – dependable on Russia. Many countries are there.

MS. PSAKI: Well, we know – I mean, there have been some reports of this in terms of Russia and specific steps about Ukraine. I'm not sure if this is what you're asking, but I'll answer it and then we'll see if it is or not. But we understand there's been no interruption of oil and natural gas exports from Russia to Ukraine and Europe at this point. Any disruption to Russia's energy shipments to Ukraine and Europe is a lose-lose situation for everyone, because, of course, Russia is incredibly dependent on these exports for their own economy and they're very critical export markets for Russia. They earn about \$50 billion per year from sales to Ukraine and Europe. So if Russia takes this action, it puts their own economy at risk, but we haven't seen a disruption at this point.

QUESTION: Can you compare this as just, like, Iran in the past – like, Iranian sanctions? There were – many countries were dependent on Iranian oil and gas, and now it will be same thing?

MS. PSAKI: I wouldn't want to strike that comparison. Obviously, every situation is different, but that's what the situation is with Russia and Europe and Ukraine and the export market there.

Secretary Kerry's Remarks on Ukraine After Meeting of International Support Group on Lebanon

Press Availability

John Kerry

Secretary of State

Chief of Mission Residence

Paris, France

March 5, 2014

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, good evening everybody. Thank you very much. I know you've all been extremely patient and it's been a long day.

First of all, I want to thank Foreign Minister Fabius and the French Government for a tremendous job of hosting the International Support Group on Lebanon today. And I really don't want – none of us want the importance of what we came here to talk about with respect to Lebanon to be lost in all of the obvious discussions that have taken place with respect to the question of Ukraine.

But the countries that came to Paris today for this very important and timely meeting are – all of us – bound together by a very strong commitment to Lebanon. As Syria's conflict spills over Lebanon's borders, and as the refugee crisis grows, we are deeply concerned for the security and the sovereignty of the people of Lebanon and for their simple ability to be able to chart their own futures and fulfill the same basic aspirations that they share with everybody else on this planet.

The president, President Suleiman, pulled out and showed me a very dramatic charting that goes for the last few years – four different charts that show you the extraordinary change in Lebanon of the numbers of refugees as every year upwards, the entire country has become a swatch of red. Instead of red dots, the entire border is really red today because there are almost a million refugees in Lebanon. This has an extraordinary impact on the internal dynamics of a country: people who are looking for work, people who work for less; it drives wages down; it changes the nature of that nation. So the United States is very proud to have provided Lebanon just in the last year or so with respect to its development process \$340 million the last few years in humanitarian aid. And we will continue to support the Lebanese Armed Forces and other security institutions.

Of course, you can't talk about the values of sovereignty, security, and determination, and economic opportunity without coming quickly back to the events of the last days in Ukraine. Ukrainians told me yesterday in Kyiv how desperately they want a government that has the consent of the people and an economy that gives them a chance to be able to live just like everybody else. I told the story of a person who had been to Australia who came back and said "We just want to be able to live the way other people live, the way we've seen them live."

Well, today our fellow foreign ministers and I met separately with our Ukrainian counterpart Foreign Minister Deshchysia and our Russian counterpart Foreign Minister Lavrov. And we met as a group also, a group of concerned countries. We agreed to continue intense discussions in the coming days with Russia, with the Ukrainians, in order to see how we can help normalize the situation, stabilize it, and overcome the crisis. And those intentions are intentions that are shared exactly as I have described them between Russia, the United States, the European countries, and Ukrainians who were here.

All parties agreed today that it is important to try to resolve these issues through dialogue. The United States, with our partners, is focusing intensely on a remedy. And I don't believe as any of us believe – President Obama doesn't believe it, I don't believe, the other countries we're working with I know they don't believe – that any of us are served by greater or further confrontation. And also, we met today to discuss these issues because we cannot and will not allow the integrity of the sovereignty of the country of Ukraine to be violated and for those violations to go unanswered.

Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity has actually united the world

in support of the Ukrainian people. And this morning, Secretary Hagel announced that the Defense Department is taking concrete steps to reassure our NATO allies, steps like expanding our aviation detachment in Poland and our contributions to NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission. This is on top of other steps that the United States has already taken, steps like suspending our bilateral discussions with Russia on trade and investment, suspending U.S.-Russia military engagement, and suspending preparations for the G8 summit in Sochi.

As I said yesterday in Kyiv and as President Obama has said as well, and as I said to Foreign Minister Lavrov today, Russia made a choice, and we have clearly stated that we believe it is the wrong choice, that is, the choice to move troops into Crimea. Russia can now choose to deescalate this situation, and we are committed to working with Russia and together with our friends and allies in an effort to provide a way for this entire situation to find the road to de-escalation. The United States is ready to work with all parties to make that happen and to make it happen as soon as possible.

We renew our call for Russia to speak directly with the Government of Ukraine, to send troops back to their bases, and to welcome international observers and human rights monitors. And we've seen today with what happened with Special Envoy Serry just how important it is to ensure the safety of those monitors and of those observers. Ukraine's territorial integrity must be restored and must be respected.

From Lebanon to Ukraine, the United States stands ready to help our friends in a time of need. And today, those needs obviously are great in different places, different kinds of needs in different places. We especially thank our friends here in France for their partnership as we work to address these challenges and many others. For instance, Iran's nuclear program – we're working together. Violence in the Central African Republic – we're working together. In the pursuit of reconciliation in Mali, we are working together.

All of these efforts require international cooperation, so coming together as a community of nations, as we did today, is the best way to resolve these kinds of problems that concern us. And today, I believe we initiated a process that over the next couple of days we hope can bring us to that de-escalation and to a path for the protection of the integrity of a country and for the building of stronger relationships between other nations.

On that note, I'd be delighted to take any questions.

MS. HART: Great. Our first question comes from Anne Gearan of The Washington Post (inaudible).

QUESTION: Thank you. Mr. Secretary, you just renewed the U.S. call to Russia to speak directly to the new Ukrainian Government. You were hoping that that would happen today, right, here between Lavrov and the Ukrainian foreign minister who accompanied you here, apparently for that purpose. Why did that effort fail, and what assurance did you get, if any, from the Russians that they might be willing to have that kind of conversation in the future?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, Anne, let me make it absolutely crystal clear: I had no expectation, zero expectation, that today that kind of a meeting would take place. I did not expect it and we did not ask the foreign minister to come here for that purpose. So the premise of the question is really just not factual in terms of what we were expecting.

We brought him here because we knew that it was inappropriate for us to have discussions with Minister Lavrov, whom I knew I had a meeting with, without being able to consult with our Ukrainian friends. And it would have been inappropriate for us to come here to Paris and for a group of nations to join together and make some kind of an agreement without the appropriate consultation and engagement and involvement and signoff from the people who are concerned. This is a Ukrainian decision, and we respect that.

So we met – all of us – as a group of foreign ministers with the foreign minister from Ukraine. We went through the things that we have discussed today. We solicited opinion. I will be in touch later tonight with the foreign minister as well as with the prime minister of Ukraine. They're traveling to Brussels for meetings tomorrow with the EU, and we will continue that discussion. I will also continue that discussion.

I will also continue the discussion with Foreign Minister Lavrov in Rome tomorrow. Foreign Minister Lavrov will then return to have discussions with President Putin, which he also did today. He will continue to have that discussion. And I will, obviously, have an opportunity to have a discussion with President Obama and with the team in the White House in order to discuss the road forward.

But we had very thorough discussions today, very extensive, exchanged ideas. We both have thoughts to take back to our capitals and to our respective bosses, and I intend to do that, and with hopes – with hopes – that the ideas that have been put on the table today can lead us to that place of de-escalation that I talked about.

MS. HARF: Great. Thank you. Our next question is from (inaudible) of Le Monde. And wait for the microphone. I think it's right there. Thank you.

QUESTION: (In French.)

MS. HARF: Hold on one second.

SECRETARY KERRY: (In French.)

QUESTION: (In French.)

SECRETARY KERRY: (In French.)

QUESTION: (In French.)

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, the decisions for the Europeans are decisions for the Europeans, and they're meeting tomorrow, and I don't think it's appropriate for me to weigh in publicly on their deliberations.

With respect to the premise, again, of your question, don't assume that we did not make – have serious conversations which produced creative and appropriate ideas and possibilities for how we can resolve this. I think that we have a number of ideas on the table. I personally feel as if I have something concrete to take back and talk to President Obama about so that I can get his input and thinking, advice, on what he's prepared to do. And I believe that Foreign Minister Lavrov is in exactly the same position with respect to President Putin.

I don't think any of us had an anticipation that we were coming here, at this moment in this atmosphere of heightened tension and confrontation, that we were suddenly going to resolve that here this afternoon. But I believe we are doing what is appropriate and what offers the best chance of finding a way forward that the world would welcome that is without conflict. As we said, we agreed today, both sides, and the Ukrainians also, that we are all better served if this can be resolved through dialogue. That's important. I think it was a strong indication in the conversations that took place, not just between us but between us and our capitals, that everybody is taking seriously the effort to try to find a way forward, but a way forward that satisfies the needs, that protects the integrity and the sovereignty of the state of Ukraine, and one that obviously charts a path forward that has respect for the people of Ukraine and the direction that they have chosen to move in.

So I look forward to the conversations over the course of the next days, and we'll see where we are. But I think today was very constructive, without promising something that is not defined yet, without raising hopes that are inappropriate to raise. I want to be realistic. This is hard, tough stuff and a very serious moment, but I'd rather be where we are today than where we were yesterday.

MS. HARF: Great. And the final question comes from Margaret Brennan of CBS.

QUESTION: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. Was there anything in your direct conversation with Sergey Lavrov today that makes you believe that Russia is no longer creating a pretext for further invasion? And did you hear anything that would assure you – make you re-think the U.S. threat to put sanctions on Russia? That threat seems to have been weakened by European reluctance.

SECRETARY KERRY: I don't think it's been weakened at all by what you call European reluctance. The conversations I had today with the foreign minister of Germany, the foreign minister of France, the foreign minister of Great Britain, with the EU representative, and with a number of other foreign ministers, indicated to me that people are very serious about that.

There's been no movement away from the possibility.

And everything I said yesterday and the day before and through the week stands. That is where we are. But we are pursuing, as President Obama indicated he would like to in his comments yesterday and the day before, as I indicated on Sunday in my comments on television shows, we would prefer to find an appropriate, diplomatic solution to this, and I think everybody is better served through that.

But we've also made it clear our determination to stand up for the integrity and the sovereignty of this nation, our disagreement with the choice that Russia has made, and our hope that we can find a way forward that respects the rights and aspirations of the people of Ukraine writ large – east, west, south, all of Ukraine. That's our goal. Nothing has changed with respect to that. And what the Europeans choose to do is obviously their choice. And we've made it clear that the decision to go into Crimea is not without cost. And now we need to go forward and see if we can avoid everybody being put in a corner where it's more and more difficult to find a path that presents you with the solution of dialogue.

I was encouraged today that Russia indicated that they would prefer to see us be able to find that path. That's the beginning of a negotiation. And as I said, this will belong in this discussion for whatever period of time to come. But our position has not changed one bit.

Thank you all very much. Appreciate it.

QUESTION: Did you all discuss the February 21st initiative, the February 21st agreement? Did you all discuss it with Lavrov?

SECRETARY KERRY: Nothing is agreed – nothing is agreed on that. There is no agreement at all. (Inaudible) discussion about having him in it, but nothing's been agreed.

QUESTION: So you refute Sergey Lavrov's comments about –

SECRETARY KERRY: I don't think there was an agreement. There's no agreement.

MS. HARF: Thank you, guys.

QUESTION: Thank you.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

Press briefing: morning 5 March 2014

Update on efforts to bring Russia and Ukraine into talks

5 March 2014

Foreign Secretary William Hague underlines difficulties but says there is sufficient willingness to continue trying to bring Russia and Ukraine into talks.

Today in Paris Foreign Ministers from UK, US, France and Germany met first with the Russian Foreign Minister and then with the acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister.

Speaking after the meetings, the Foreign Secretary answered questions:

Face-to-face meetings between yourselves, your counterparts from the United States, France, Germany and of course Sergei Lavrov must be seen as progress?

Well it's too early to say that a lot of progress has been made. We came here, as you know, to try to make sure that Russia and Ukraine are engaged in talking to each other and negotiating with each other in a dialogue with each other and with other nations.

I think a lot more progress is needed yet but there is a sufficient willingness to try to find a common framework that would bring Ukraine and Russia into discussions with each other and with other nations such as ours, so a sufficient willingness to continue with those efforts over the coming days. And so we will continue with them. Secretary Kerry has of course been very active in this and he will be continuing this effort, as we all will, through all our diplomatic channels and direct contact with each other over the coming days but these meetings are very difficult. As you have seen, we have been through a whole series of meetings today in different formats, with different combinations of people.

The issues are very difficult. Russian and Ukraine both have things that they have taken away to

study further and think about, so there is some willingness to do that but we are certainly not there yet with such a framework. There will have to be further discussions.

The ambition, however unrealistic it might have been, I know this morning when we spoke, you didn't have a whole load of optimism. The ambition was to get the Russians and the Ukrainians speaking in some form, if not in the same room. Has today been a failure therefore?

No because this has been time well spent in that we have helped to create that willingness to try to find a framework and we have had extensive discussions with Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister and with the acting Foreign Minister for Ukraine and we have not yet had them in the same room together but of course this is the point of what we are trying to achieve. So further work needs to be done on that. We have to remember that the situation on the ground remains the same, remains tense, remains very dangerous so this remains very urgent work. And it remains clear that if these issues cannot be resolved there must be, and there will be, costs and consequences for Russia of having taken this action and for having violated the independence and the sovereignty of Ukraine.

So all we can say is there has been sufficient willingness to make some progress to try to find a framework and we all think it is worth continuing with those efforts.

Do you sense the Russians softening slightly?

I don't think anybody has softened in their position which is why these meetings are very difficult. And in the case of Russia, clearly further consultations and further discussion and further proposals are required within their government. So I do not want to raise any expectations it's very difficult work. These meetings are very difficult indeed but it is worth persisting with them. What is at stake is so enormous that it is very important for us to continue our diplomatic efforts. So in different places, through different channels, sometimes face-to face, sometimes by telephone, this will be continued over the coming days.

PM phone call with President Obama: 5 March 2014

5 March 2014

Prime Minister David Cameron spoke to President Obama earlier today to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

Following the phone call, a Downing Street spokesperson said:

Ahead of tomorrow's European Council, the Prime Minister spoke to President Obama earlier today to discuss the situation in Ukraine. They reiterated their grave concern over Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and agreed that the international community should continue to work together to de-escalate the situation and to deter any further Russian action.

While they noted that there had not been any further serious escalations by the Russians in the last 48 hours, both agreed that the current circumstances are unacceptable – the Russian authorities had yet to withdraw their troops back to bases, still refused to recognise the interim government in Kiev and the situation on the ground remained extremely tense. They both welcomed the observer mission being undertaken by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at the request of the government of Ukraine.

They agreed that the EU and United States should stand united in their condemnation of Russia's actions and make clear to President Putin that such actions would face significant consequences.

They also discussed how to encourage direct talks between Ukraine and Russia and the need to continue to support the government of Ukraine as it works to stabilise its economy and to restore stability for the Ukrainian people.

Joint statement by Foreign Ministers of UK, US and Ukraine on Budapest Memorandum

5 March 2014

The Foreign Secretary, John Kerry and Andriy Deshchytzia met in Paris to discuss the Budapest Memorandum.

The Foreign Secretary William Hague, US Secretary of State John Kerry and the interim Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Andriy Deshchytzia, met in Paris earlier today as parties to the Budapest memorandum. The memorandum committed those countries to “refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine” in return for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons. Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, was invited but didn't attend.

The following statement was agreed.

US/UK/Ukraine Press Statement on the Budapest Memorandum Meeting

- On 5 March 2014, US Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a meeting in Paris with the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, William Hague, and the Acting Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Andriy Deshchytzia.
- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the urgent question of the Budapest Memorandum, the agreement signed by the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Russia in 1994. The United States had conveyed an invitation to the Russian Federation to the meeting. We deeply regret that the Russian Federation declined to attend.
- The Budapest Memorandum sets out the obligations of signatories in return for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons. Under its terms, the three parties commit to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity. The Memorandum also obliges the UK, US and Russia to consult in the event of a situation arising where the memorandum commitments are questioned.
- Ukraine voluntarily surrendered the world's third largest nuclear weapons arsenal in exchange for these assurances. The three Governments treat these assurances with utmost seriousness, and expect Russia to as well. Russia has chosen to act unilaterally and militarily. The United Kingdom and United States will continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and we commend the new Ukrainian government for not taking actions that might escalate the situation. Russia's continued violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity can only degrade Russia's international standing and lead to greater political and economic consequences.
- In the meeting, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine discussed steps needed to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and called on Russia to engage in consultations with Ukraine as they have committed to in the Budapest memorandum.
- The United States, United Kingdom and Ukraine agreed that direct talks between Ukraine and Russia, facilitated as needed by members of the international community, are crucial to resolving the current situation. They also agreed that international observers should be deployed immediately in Ukraine, especially in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. The three governments reaffirmed the importance of protecting the rights of all Ukrainian citizens, and believed that international observers would help address any concerns regarding irregular forces, military activity and the treatment of all Ukrainians irrespective of their ethnicity or spoken language.

Foreign Secretary sets out importance of diplomatic progress on Ukraine

5 March 2014

William Hague says UK is taking every diplomatic opportunity to try to bring Russia and Ukraine into direct contact.

Following a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry and interim Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytzia in Paris today, Foreign Secretary William Hague said:

Today we are trying to use every diplomatic opportunity to bring Russia and Ukraine into direct contact with each other at a senior level to make sure that the governments of Russia and Ukraine are talking to each other, which the Russians have not been prepared to do at a senior level in recent days. We will make further attempts at this afternoon, and we've held a meeting this morning under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum – this is the agreement signed by Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Ukraine in 1994 to support the territorial integrity of Ukraine; not to use armed force against Ukraine. We've had those consultations without Russia in the absence of Russia's willingness to take part in that, and I think there's a very strong common understanding between the United States and the United Kingdom of what we need to do in terms of now trying to create a contact group or co-ordination group. We will put the case for this to Foreign Minister Lavrov later this afternoon. I'm not optimistic about the outcome of that, but of course it's right to try every diplomatic opportunity to de-escalate this crisis. If we can't make progress on that, then of course there will be costs and consequences; as I've said before and as the Prime Minister and President Obama have said, for Russia there has to be, for such a violation of the independence and the sovereignty of another nation. But we will at all times keep our channels of communication to Russia open, and today is one of the means by which we are doing that. It will be a test this afternoon of whether Russia is prepared to sit down with Ukraine, and we will strongly recommend that they do so.

Question and Answer session with journalists:

“Mr Hague, is that the test today, that Mr Lavrov has to agree to meet his Ukrainian counterpart, or would you settle for less, otherwise the EU summit tomorrow will go ahead and talk about sanctions?”

Well, the European Council will go ahead tomorrow. I think what happens at the European Council will partly be determined by Russia's willingness to talk to Ukraine today, so it's important for them to bear that in mind. So yes, this is the test for, I think... for Russia today. But as you know, Russia argues – quite wrongly, in our view – that there isn't a legitimate government in Kiev. We say, well, actually President Yanukovich, the former president, fled the country; he left the country. Ukraine, therefore, have had to provide an acting president. They have done so by large majorities in the Ukrainian parliament, including support from the party of former president Yanukovich. So there is a legitimate government in Ukraine. But that is the Russian argument and that is what is... that's why they're saying they will not sit down with the Ukrainians. We also say, 'unless you're prepared to sit down with the Ukrainians, how do you find the de-escalation? You need to be talking to each other'. So this is the test for the Russians this afternoon.

“Foreign Secretary, what constitutes de-escalation, in your viewpoint? And secondly, if it does come to costs and consequences for Russia, how confident are you of putting together a set of arrangements that will take care of the different concerns within the European Union? Everyone has different sets of priorities – Britain does, France does, Germany does – on how to approach and put pressure on Russia. How do you come up with an arrangement that is... takes into concern everybody's priorities?”

On the de-escalation, this, of course, is one of the things that a group should be able to discuss together. This is why we want the Russians to join in a contact group, as I described before, a co-ordination group where they would be sitting with Ukraine but with other nations – with France, with Germany, with the UK, with the United States – so that we could all work on this together, and such de-escalation could be discussed. Of course, in our view, a de-escalation should include Russia abiding by the international agreements that it has signed in the past, such as its forces in Crimea abiding by the 1997 agreement on Black Sea bases whereby they would only be outside their bases with the agreement of the government of Ukraine. But that would all be for... de-escalation would be the subject of discussion in such a group. It's why we want to bring a group like that together. On European measures, well, this is for the... of course for the European Council tomorrow, for the heads of government to discuss. It is true that bringing together 28 nations in agreement on foreign policy, specific decisions, always requires a lot of hard work.

Foreign Minister Fabius and I have discussed this. I think the UK and France are very closely aligned. The Prime Minister has held discussions with President Hollande and with Chancellor Merkel over the last couple of days by telephone. So I don't... it would be wrong at the moment for me to speculate about what the... what will come out of the European Council, and it will, in any case, depend partly on events today. But I have no doubt that the European Union can come together on important measures if the need is there, and it may well be there.

“Just to pick up on something that you said in reply to the last question, and that is the desire that the Russian military will return back to their bases in the Crimea; realistically that is not going to happen in the next 24 hours. Would you be prepared to lower your threshold to reach this state of de-escalation, as you put it? And “costs and consequences” we’ve heard a lot of over the last few days. I mean, presumably tomorrow is the day, if nothing changes.”

Yes, well, again, on the first point, what we’re really trying to do here today is to bring the Russians in to a diplomatic process, and that is what we really want to see – at least the start of that. And I think that’s right to try every diplomatic opportunity. Our focus has been very strongly on trying to make diplomatic progress so that Russia and Ukraine can work together, can discuss things together. And this is really the threshold here; if we’re looking at the threshold, we want to see this process begin so that we can then put hard work into it over the coming days. And yes, it is important for the... on your second question, for the European Council to demonstrate that there are costs and consequences to Russia. Some of those have already started in the short term. They are diplomatic consequences: preparations for the G8 and things of that kind. Some of the most important consequences could very well be in the long term, because here we have seen Russia do in the Crimea what has happened in Georgia some years ago, what’s happened in Moldova, and it becomes a long-term pattern of behaviour that I think will change the relationship between European nations and Russia. And that is something that Russia has to really take into account.

Press briefing: afternoon 5 March 2014

5 March 2014

The Prime Minister’s Spokesperson (PMS) answered questions on Crimea and Scotland.

Crimea

Asked how close the EU was to an agreement on a package of costs to Russia, the PMS referred the assembled press to the Foreign Minister’s words earlier in the day; the UK was working closely with France and Germany, and bringing 28 nations to agreement always requires a lot of hard work.

The PMS said that the outcome of the following day’s meeting in Paris would depend in part on the Russian government’s approach. He said that that the US Secretary of State and the Russian Foreign Minister would meet later that day to discuss how they could progress toward de-escalation, including the possibility of a contact group.

Asked about Polish involvement in discussions, the PMS confirmed that Poland would be involved.

Asked whether France and Germany’s respective wishes to keep business and fuel links open with Russia would prevent meaningful action being taken, the PMS said that EU foreign ministers were discussing potential actions on Monday. Visa restrictions were one example. Discussions were ongoing.

Asked to confirm Britain is not supplying weapons, such as anti ship missiles, and whether military helicopters were included in licences, the PMS said that Russian export licences in question were for components for vehicles and vessels.

<...>

The Prime Minister's Spokesperson (PMS) answered questions on Ukraine, Patrick Rock, immigration and sugar.

5 March 2014

Ukraine

Asked about the situation in Ukraine, the PMS said the government was looking at a range of diplomatic, economic and political measures in response to the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. In that context the government was reviewing all existing export licences with Russia. The upcoming EU summit would encourage de-escalation and seek to find ways, through the international community, to establish dialogue between Ukrainian and Russian authorities.

КАНАДА

Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on the situation in Ukraine

Ottawa, Ontario – 5 March 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement on the situation in Ukraine:

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law.

"As such, today I am announcing that we are suspending our participation in the Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC), established to promote economic relations between Canada and Russia.

"Also, at Ukraine's request, Canada, along with a number of other member countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), will participate in an important military observer mission, which has been formed to report on military activities in the Crimean peninsula.

"Canada is contributing two military observers who are deploying to Ukraine now.

"And at the request of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, we will freeze the assets of members of the Yanukovych regime.

"Our actions with respect to the IEC, the freezing of assets of corrupt Ukrainian officials held in Canada, and our involvement in the OSCE mission are further examples of our support for Ukraine and our goal of stabilizing the tense situation in Crimea.

"President Putin must now immediately withdraw his forces to their bases and refrain from further provocative and dangerous actions."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk

Ottawa, Ontario – 5 March 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today spoke with Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland, regarding the situation in Ukraine.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity and that any violation of Ukraine's sovereignty is unacceptable.

The two leaders discussed developments in Crimea. They condemned in the strongest terms President Putin's military intervention in Ukraine, noting that a de-escalation of the situation is in the best interest of the entire international community.

Prime Minister Harper highlighted the immediate steps that Canada is taking related to the situation, and highlighted the statement issued by the G-7 nations on March 2.

Prime Minister Harper and Prime Minister Tusk concluded their conversation by committing to continue to watch developments carefully and work closely on these issues.

НІМЕЧЧИНА

INTENSIVE CRISIS DIPLOMACY

Extraordinary meeting on Ukraine

Mar 05, 2014

The situation in Ukraine continues to give grounds for concern. Chancellor Angela Merkel will thus be attending an extraordinary meeting of the EU heads of state or government in Brussels on 6 March, where she will also meet Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

In Brussels the EU heads of state and government will discuss the situation in Ukraine

In the run-up to the meeting the German government consulted closely with European partners and with the US administration. On Tuesday evening the Chancellor spoke by phone with US President Barack Obama.

During their conversation there was a high level of agreement between Angela Merkel and Barack Obama in the way they see the most recent developments and in the conclusions they draw. They agreed to stay in contact and will continue to consult and coordinate their policies closely.

Fact-finding missions

The German government welcomes the fact that the first steps in a fact-finding mission have been taken with UN special envoy Robert Serry, who is currently in Ukraine on the Crimean peninsula. The Bundeswehr is also deploying two unarmed military observers within the scope of an OSCE observer mission.

Ukraine will voluntarily host a visit to dispel concerns about military activities from 5 to 12 March 2014 in line with Article 18 des 2011 Vienna Document on confidence building measures and risk reduction.

Bundeswehr provides support on the ground

The German Embassy in Kyiv has received a request from the Ukrainian government for support in caring for 50 injured Ukrainians. The injuries were sustained as a result of unrest on the Maidan (Independence Square) in Kyiv.

To this end a Bundeswehr medical team will initially assess the condition of the injured in Kyiv before preparing them for transport to Germany.

Extraordinary meeting of EU heads of state and government on 6 March

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, has called tomorrow's meeting in response to the current situation in Ukraine. It is not a European Council meeting but a meeting of the EU heads of state and government.

The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Lady Catherine Ashton, will also attend the meeting. Initially the heads of state and government will meet Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Meeting of foreign ministers in Paris

On Wednesday Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the US Secretary of State John Kerry met in Paris for the first time since the Crimean crisis escalated. Several European foreign ministers including Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Foreign Minister, are also expected at the Elysée Palace for a conference on the situation in the Lebanon, which has been planned for some time. The foreign ministers are expected to discuss the crisis in Ukraine as well.

Political and diplomatic process

Speaking in Berlin, government spokesperson Steffen Seibert said that only a political and diplomatic process of discussion and understanding could lead the way out of the crisis. He stressed the need for self-restraint on all sides. "If there is to be a diplomatic process, then everything must be done to stabilise Ukraine and everything that could destabilise the situation must be rejected," he underscored. Russia too must refrain from any action that would be likely to aggravate the situation.

The government spokesperson also pointed out that Ukraine's political leaders must preserve the internal cohesion of their country. "Every ethnic group must be free to express their ethnic and cultural diversity, and must enjoy the protection of the state."

In the view of the German government it is important for the international community to keep talking to the Russian government, and especially to President Vladimir Putin. To step up dialogue among all stakeholders a contact group should be established.

Breach of international law

In a statement, the G7 states (Germany, the USA, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Japan), as well as the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council have condemned the Russian contravention of the UN Charter and international agreements. In their statement, the G7 leaders stress their support for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Government spokesperson Steffen Seibert once again underlined the importance of Ukrainian sovereignty. "As a result of Russia's action, the current state in Crimea is in contravention of international agreements, which Russia has pledged to uphold. This is an unacceptable state of affairs."

In 1994 Russia undertook to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and its current borders in the Budapest Memorandum. In 1997 the Black Sea Fleet Accord regulated the terms under which the Russian Black Sea Fleet would continue to be stationed in Crimea.

ФРАНЦІЯ

05/03/2014 – Paris – Point de presse

Ukraine

Q – Aujourd'hui à Paris se sont réunis les ministres des affaires étrangères pour parler des engagements des dépositaires de l'arme nucléaire vis-à-vis de l'Ukraine, suite au mémorandum de Budapest de 1994. Quelle est la position de la France, vu l'intervention militaire russe en Crimée? Serait-elle en mesure de garantir à l'Ukraine l'intégrité de territoire, comme c'était convenu en échange de non-possession de l'arme nucléaire?

R – Comme l'a indiqué ce matin M. Laurent Fabius à l'issue de son entretien avec son homologue ukrainien, la France a une position très claire: fermeté quant aux principes d'unité et d'intégrité de l'Ukraine, et en même temps recherche du dialogue.

La France s'efforce actuellement, avec ses partenaires, de faire en sorte que le dialogue puisse s'établir pour chercher des solutions à cette situation inacceptable.

Point de presse du porte-parole – Entretiens de M. Laurent Fabius avec ses homologues ukrainien et russe, Ukraine (Paris, 05 mars 2014)

Au point de presse de ce jour, le porte-parole a fait les déclarations et a répondu aux questions suivantes:

1 – Entretiens de M. Laurent Fabius avec ses homologues ukrainien et russe (5 mars 2014) M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, a reçu ce matin M. Andreï Dechtchitsa, ministre des affaires étrangères d'Ukraine. Il a souligné l'importance de respecter l'intégrité de l'Ukraine. Il a rappelé la pleine mobilisation de la France pour permettre un dialogue constructif et une sortie de crise. M. Laurent Fabius s'entretiendra également cet après-midi avec son homologue russe, M. Sergueï Lavrov.

(...)

8 – Ukraine:

Q – Aujourd'hui à Paris se sont réunis les ministres des affaires étrangères pour parler des engagements des dépositaires de l'arme nucléaire vis-à-vis de l'Ukraine, suite au mémorandum

de Budapest de 1994. Quelle est la position de la France, vu l'intervention militaire russe en Crimée? Serait-elle en mesure de garantir à l'Ukraine l'intégrité de territoire, comme c'était convenu en échange de non-possession de l'arme nucléaire?

R – Comme l'a indiqué ce matin M. Laurent Fabius à l'issue de son entretien avec son homologue ukrainien, la France a une position très claire: fermeté quant aux principes d'unité et d'intégrité de l'Ukraine, et en même temps recherche du dialogue. La France s'efforce actuellement, avec ses partenaires, de faire en sorte que le dialogue puisse s'établir pour chercher des solutions à cette situation inacceptable.

Ukraine – Entretien de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, avec «BFM TV/RMC» – extraits (Paris, 05 mars 2014)

Q – Vous allez revenir sur cette rencontre entre Sergueï Lavrov, le ministre russe des affaires étrangères, John Kerry et vous à Paris aujourd'hui. Mais première question, est-il vrai que François Hollande va recevoir à Paris vendredi le nouveau président ukrainien par intérim?

R – Ce n'est pas encore confirmé. En revanche ce qui est confirmé, c'est que je recevrai, juste après notre émission, le ministre des affaires étrangères ukrainien qui est là. Nous avons des contacts aussi avec le nouveau président et avec M. Iatséniouk, le Premier ministre. La question est de savoir s'ils vont venir à Paris...

Q – Il paraît qu'ils viennent vendredi, c'est vrai, c'est ce qui se dit à Kiev.

R – Il faut que ce soit confirmé, en tout cas on souhaite les avoir.

Q – En tout cas, vous souhaitez qu'ils viennent à Paris...

R – Bien sûr.

Q – Premier déplacement, vous marqueriez le coup avec le président de la République.

R – Déjà aujourd'hui, si je puis dire. Je ne parle des choses que quand on en est certain. Je pense que c'est une bonne règle. Mais aujourd'hui, nous avons à Paris à peu près tout le monde puisqu'il y a une grande conférence sur le Liban, on va parler du Liban pour essayer d'aider un pays qui, petit à petit, sort de sa crise, espérons-le. Mais on profite du fait que tous nos grands collègues sont là pour évidemment traiter aussi la question ukrainienne. Je vais voir le ministre des affaires étrangères ukrainien, ainsi que MM. Kerry et Lavrov. On va voir dans la journée si on peut – je n'en sais rien – avancer pour trouver une formule de dialogue, parce que c'est cela qui était nécessaire.

Q – Alors ce matin, une solution diplomatique est-elle en vue?

R – On y travaille, on y a travaillé déjà hier soir, on va y travailler ce matin. La position de la France – qui est partagée par l'Allemagne et par d'autres – est la suivante. D'une part, être très ferme vis-à-vis de M. Poutine et de la Russie et, d'autre part, aller vers le dialogue, parce que la bonne solution est politique, elle n'est pas militaire.

Q – Il n'y a aucune solution militaire?

R – Non, on ne va pas déclarer la guerre aux Russes. Mais ce qu'ils font n'est pas acceptable, c'est l'invasion d'un pays par un autre, et c'est contraire à toutes les lois internationales. Simplement, pour en sortir, il faut qu'il y ait un contact, un dialogue. Et donc on essaie – notamment avec nos amis allemands – d'établir ce groupe de contact. On va en parler ce matin parallèlement, et peut-être va-t-on y arriver mais je n'en sais rien.

Q – Est-ce que vous parlez ce matin d'agression russe contre l'Ukraine?

R – Bien sûr. Chaque pays a son intégrité territoriale, quand un autre pays – sans y avoir été autorisé – rentre et envoie des militaires dans le premier pays, cela s'appelle une intervention militaire.

Q – Est-ce que le nouveau pouvoir en Ukraine et la Russie ont commencé à se parler?

R – Entre certains éléments ukrainiens et des Russes. Évidemment, la discussion est très difficile mais pourtant elle est absolument nécessaire.

Q – Vladimir Poutine dans sa conférence de presse hier a dit: «si l'Est de l'Ukraine russophone

et russophile bascule dans l'anarchie, l'utilisation des forces armées sera légitime».

R – Non, cela a été discuté aux Nations unies, puisqu'il y a eu une réunion. Non, ce n'est pas exact, je ne vais pas faire du juridisme. Mais imaginez ce que signifie le fait qu'à l'intérieur d'un pays, il pourrait y avoir un groupe qui dirait: «moi, je ne veux pas faire partie de ce pays, je vais appeler un autre pays à venir intervenir, cela ne peut plus fonctionner». D'autant qu'en l'occurrence, pour avoir vécu tout cela, le nouveau pouvoir en Ukraine est légitime car il a été désigné par le Parlement. J'ai discuté avec M. Yanoukovitch, j'étais avec mes amis polonais et allemands...

Q – Oui, je vais revenir sur cette fameuse nuit du 20 au 21 février.

R – On a trouvé un accord, qui disait les points suivants: arrêt des massacres en Ukraine, c'est ce qui s'est fait. Deuxième point, nouvelle Constitution, c'est ce qui a été voté; et troisièmement nouvelle majorité et élections présidentielles. Simplement là-dessus, M. Yanoukovitch a pris la poudre d'escampette, et puis il y a eu l'intervention russe. Donc il faut revenir au dialogue et bien avoir à l'esprit que l'Ukraine – compte tenu de sa Constitution, de la façon dont elle est située – doit travailler à la fois avec la Russie et avec l'Union européenne, ce n'est pas ou l'un ou l'autre, ce sont les deux.

Q – Ce vendredi 21 février justement était signé cet accord entre le président et l'opposition...

R – Exact.

Q – Vous étiez partie prenante, les trois ministres des affaires étrangères de l'Union européenne. Les parties en présence se mettaient d'accord sur une élection présidentielle anticipée, ainsi que sur le principe de formation d'un gouvernement d'union nationale avec retour à la Constitution de 2004.

R – C'est exact.

Q – Cette solution de compromis préservait la paix civile et permettait de donner du temps à une transition, à des élections et à une issue pleinement démocratique. Oui mais tout ce qui a fait basculer, c'est la présence d'un groupe d'extrémistes fascistes...

R – Non. La première partie de la description est parfaitement exacte, nous étions arrivés à un accord. Simplement, là-dessus, M. Yanoukovitch, le président, a filé et du même coup les choses ont été déséquilibrées. Il y a eu le vote – à mon avis assez inopportun – à la Rada d'une loi qui abrogeait le statut officiel de la langue russe; donc, ça, c'est une erreur, même si elle n'a pas été promulguée, mais enfin c'est une erreur. Et puis ensuite il y a eu l'intervention des militaires, en Crimée et dans d'autres villes.

Q – Mais lorsque vous êtes parti en Chine, certains vous ont reproché d'ailleurs de partir trop tôt en Chine, vous avez lu ces critiques Laurent Fabius, comme moi.

R – Elles sont totalement marginales.

Q – Mais quand vous êtes parti en Chine, vous pensiez que l'accord était trouvé...

R – Ah non! Mais c'était trouvé.

Q – Qui pouvait être appliqué, que c'était trouvé et que la solution était en vue.

R – Bien sûr. Non, je suis parti – finissons cette affaire -, le président chinois m'avait très aimablement accordé un rendez-vous, j'ai décalé les choses de 36 heures, et une fois que l'accord a été bouclé je suis parti pour la Chine, pour travailler pour la France, je le signale.

Q – Est-ce que, dans cette affaire, on ne peut pas considérer que la Russie a été humiliée parfois?

R – Humiliée, non, je ne crois pas.

Q – Je ne veux pas prendre la défense de Vladimir Poutine, mais je vous pose la question parce qu'elle mérite d'être posée.

R – La Russie est un grand pays, le peuple russe est un grand peuple et la France et la Russie ont des relations d'amitié traditionnelles.

Q – C'est toujours un pays ami aujourd'hui?

R – Bien sûr, c'est un pays partenaire et nous avons beaucoup de relations avec lui. Mais nous ne pouvons pas accepter, nous, membres de la communauté internationale, qu'un pays en envahisse un autre, c'est, aussi simple que cela. Comme nous ne voulons pas nous arrêter à cela, nous disons: «essayons de rétablir les voies du dialogue, mais, attention, demain il y a un Conseil

européen spécial, des sanctions peuvent être décidées demain s'il n'y a pas une désescalade». J'attends, j'espère de la Russie aujourd'hui qu'elle nous dise qu'il y a une voie de dialogue et c'est ce que nous proposons avec les Allemands: un groupe de contact avec les différents pays concernés.

Q – Oui, mais en Russie, on vous répond «oui, mais regardez, les États-Unis ont bien envahi l'Irak».

R – D'abord, nous étions contre l'intervention américaine en Irak, vous vous le rappelez?

Q- Oui, ça je m'en souviens ...et en Afghanistan. R – La situation était différente. Mais ce n'est pas parce qu'un pays a commis une erreur grave qu'il faut que d'autres fassent la même.

Q – C'était une erreur l'Afghanistan?

R – C'est très compliqué. Non, je crois qu'en Afghanistan, il fallait réagir à la destruction des tours, mais, après, l'intervention a dévié. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous-mêmes, au début du gouvernement de François Hollande, nous avons retiré nos troupes.

Q – Alors les sanctions, vous aviez parlé de sanctions, vous aviez un ultimatum à demain jeudi, où est-ce que vous en êtes?

R – On a décidé concrètement déjà une sanction qui est qu'il y a suspension de la préparation du G8 de Sotchi en Russie, tant qu'on ne revient pas à la...

Q – Suspendue...

R – C'est suspendu. Cela s'est décidé et cela concerne les États-Unis, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie et le Royaume-Uni. Deuxièmement, nous avons dit qu'il y aura des sanctions demain – cela concerne les visas, cela concerne les discussions économiques, cela peut concerner aussi les avoirs d'un certain nombre d'oligarques – s'il n'y a pas de désescalade. Et la désescalade doit être acceptée par les Russes.

Q – C'est quoi la désescalade pour vous?

R – La désescalade, cela veut dire en particulier accepter le groupe de contact pour une sortie. Et la France et l'Allemagne...

Q – Accepter la création d'un groupe de contact?

R – ...pour aller vers une sortie. Je vous donne une information supplémentaire: l'Allemagne et la France, qui travaillent ensemble vraiment la main dans la main, ont mis au point une proposition de plan de sortie. Et l'on va voir, s'il est accepté, qu'il soit discuté.

Q – Qu'y a-t-il dans ce plan de sortie?

R – Ce plan revient sur certains éléments de l'accord du 21 février, c'est-à-dire un gouvernement d'union, c'est-à-dire évidemment le fait que les Russes se retireraient, le fait que, s'il y a des milices extrémistes, elles seraient dissoutes et le fait que la Constitution 2004 s'applique et que l'on aille vers une élection présidentielle. C'est très simple, c'est la reprise de beaucoup des éléments du 21 février. Mais pour aller vers ce dialogue que tout le monde souhaite, en tout cas de notre côté, il faut être plusieurs.

Q – Est-il vrai que les Britanniques refusent des sanctions économiques?

R – Non, lundi nous avons eu une réunion des ministres des affaires étrangères et nous avons pris des sanctions – je dirais – provisionnelles, uniquement s'il n'y a pas désescalade, et les Britanniques ont voté, c'est une décision qui a été unanime. (...)

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

ОБСЄ

OSCE Chairperson participates in Paris meeting on crisis in Ukraine to discuss possibility of an international contact group

PARIS 5 March 2014

PARIS, 5 March 2014 – OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister, Didier

Burkhalter, took part in a meeting on the Ukrainian crisis in Paris today. On the invitation of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, key actors focused in their discussions on the possibility of the creation of a contact group for Ukraine.

The meeting took place at ministerial level and at the margin of a support conference for Lebanon, organized by France. The Swiss Chair used the opportunity to advocate the establishment of an international contact group on Ukraine, whose main task would be to support Ukraine in this period of transition. The group would act as a platform for co-ordination and exchange of information on international assistance and project-related activities. Burkhalter encouraged participants to take decisive steps towards de-escalation and a settlement of the crisis.

The high-level participants of the meeting from Germany, France, Italy, Poland, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, the OSCE and the UN also discussed the possibility of an OSCE monitoring mission.

While discussions on a contact group are ongoing, the Personal Envoy of the CiO, Tim Guldemann, is visiting Ukraine and arrived in Crimea for consultations yesterday, at the same time as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Astrid Thors.

In parallel, up to now, 18 participating States decided in the framework of the Vienna Document 2011 to follow a request of the Ukrainian authorities for sending unarmed military representatives from 5-12 March to Ukraine to observe military activities and assess the situation on the ground.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights announced on 3 March that it would send an election observation mission to Ukraine for the presidential election of 25 May. The announcement came after ODIHR received from the Ukrainian authorities an invitation to observe.

OSCE to send military and civilian personnel to Ukraine

VIENNA 5 March 2014

UPDATE at 20:00, 9 March: As of now, 30 OSCE participating States are participating in the activity, having sent up to two representatives each. There are 56 participants in total, from: Albania, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. One representative from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre is also participating.

VIENNA, 5 March 2014 – Eighteen OSCE participating States decided to send 35 unarmed military personnel to Ukraine in response to its request.

The matter was discussed at a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in Vienna on 4 March 2014.

The visit is taking place under Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011, which allows for voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about unusual military activities. Ukraine has requested all OSCE participating States to send military representatives from 5 to 12 March 2014, starting in Odessa. This is the first time this mechanism has been activated.

As of now, eighteen OSCE participating States have responded positively to the request sending up to two representatives each. Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. One representative from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre will also be participating. The military visit participants are on their way to Ukraine now.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier said: "It is my hope that this military visit will help to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine. By providing an objective assessment of the facts on the ground, the OSCE will be better placed to foster a political solution to the current crisis through

dialogue."

"Confidence-building and transparency are key elements of the OSCE approach to security, which seeks to foster openness and dialogue as the best way to resolve conflicts in our region," he added.

The Vienna Document 2011 is one of the main confidence-building measures developed by the OSCE. Under this document, all participating States are required to share information on their military forces, equipment and defence planning. The Document also provides for inspections and evaluation visits that can be conducted on the territory of any participating State that has armed forces.

Note to editors: Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011 (full text see at <http://www.osce.org/fsc/86597>)

VOLUNTARY HOSTING OF VISITS TO DISPEL CONCERNS ABOUT MILITARY ACTIVITIES

(18) In order to help to dispel concerns about military activities in the zone of application for CSBMs, participating States are encouraged to invite other participating States to take part in visits to areas on the territory of the host State in which there may be cause for such concerns. Such invitations will be without prejudice to any action taken under paragraphs (16) to (16.3).

(18.1) States invited to participate in such visits will include those which are understood to have concerns. At the time invitations are issued, the host State will communicate to all other participating States its intention to conduct the visit, indicating the reasons for the visit, the area to be visited, the States invited and the general arrangements to be adopted.

(18.2) Arrangements for such visits, including the number of the representatives from other participating States to be invited, will be at the discretion of the host State, which will bear the in-country costs. However, the host State should take appropriate account of the need to ensure the effectiveness of the visit, the maximum amount of openness and transparency and the safety and security of the invited representatives. It should also take account, as far as practicable, of the wishes of visiting representatives as regards the itinerary of the visit. The host State and the States which provide visiting personnel may circulate joint or individual comments on the visit to all other participating States.

EC

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 5 March 2014

7281/14 (OR. en)

PRESSE 118

EU freezes misappropriated Ukrainian state funds

As agreed at the Foreign Affairs Council of 3 March, the Council today adopted EU sanctions focussed on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds. Today's decision targets 18 persons identified as responsible for such misappropriation whose assets within the European Union will be frozen. The sanctions also contain provisions facilitating the recovery of the frozen funds, once certain conditions are met. The legal acts, including the list of persons subject to sanctions, will be published in tomorrow's EU Official Journal. The measures will initially apply for twelve months, starting tomorrow. Today's decision was adopted by written procedure. For more information about EU restrictive measures and the effects of an asset freeze, see factsheet.

FACTSHEET

Brussels, 29 April 2014

EU restrictive measures

Sanctions are one of the EU's tools to promote the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): peace, democracy and the respect for the rule of law, human rights and international law. They are always part of a comprehensive policy approach involving political dialogue and complementary efforts. EU sanctions are not punitive, but designed to bring about a change in policy or activity by the target country, entities or individuals. Measures are therefore always targeted at such policies or activities, the means to conduct them and those responsible for them. At the same time, the EU makes every effort to minimise adverse consequences for the civilian population or for legitimate activities. The EU implements all sanctions imposed by the UN. In addition, the EU may reinforce UN sanctions by applying stricter and additional measures. Finally, where the EU deems it necessary, it may decide to impose autonomous sanctions. Adoption and entry into force The Council imposes EU restrictive measures through a CFSP Council decision adopted at unanimity. While this decision contains all measures imposed, additional legislation may be needed to give full legal effect to the sanctions. Certain sanctions, such as arms embargoes and travel bans, are implemented directly by member states. Such measures only require a decision by the Council. This decision is directly binding on EU member states. Economic measures, for instance asset freezes and export bans, fall under the competence of the Union and therefore require separate implementing legislation in the form of a Council regulation, which is directly binding on EU citizens and businesses. The regulation, adopted on the basis of a joint proposal from the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission, contains the details on the precise scope of the measures decided upon by the Council and their implementation. The regulation usually enters into force on the day following its publication in the EU Official Journal.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

José Manuel Durão Barroso

President of the European Commission

Remarks by President Barroso on Ukraine

Press point

Brussels, 5 March 2014

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

The Commission met this morning to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

The events of the last days have shocked us all and reminded us that principles that we cherish, like peace, cannot be taken for granted. It also reminds us how the outdated logic of the balance of powers is dangerous and wrong and we need to replace it with a logic of cooperation and dialogue, in full respect of international law.

Our message has always been, and remains, that it is for the Ukrainian people to decide on their own future. This means their freedom and security must be guaranteed, and that the territorial integrity has to be respected.

Our most immediate priority is to contribute to a peaceful solution to the current crisis. We expect that recent measures to de-escalate the situation will be followed through.

The situation in Crimea needs to be handled through political dialogue in the framework of the Ukrainian constitution and respecting the rights of all Ukrainian citizens and communities. In this respect, I welcome the direct dialogue established between Moscow and Kiev, and I expect no one will oppose a deployment of international observers to Crimea.

In parallel, the international community should mobilise to help Ukraine stabilise its economic and financial situation, which will in turn also contribute to political and social peace. The Commission currently has a mission on the ground in Ukraine to conduct a needs assessment.

Today, the European Commission has identified a package of support to Ukraine. This is our contribution to tomorrow's meeting of Heads of State and Government. The package combined

could bring an overall support of at least 11 billion euros over the next couple of years, from the European Union budget and European Union based international financial institutions. It is a package designed to assist a committed, inclusive and reforms oriented Ukrainian Government. Importantly, we will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with Prime Minister Yatseniuk tomorrow, and of course I am very pleased about this.

Our package consists of immediate short and medium term measures offering trade, economic, technical and financial assistance to Ukraine.

- It offers €1.6 billion in loans under macro-financial assistance.
- It offers €1.4 billion in grants, of which €600 million can be disbursed in the next two years.
- It adds another €3 billion from the European Investment Bank from 2014-2016 and it proposes to create a trust fund in which the European Union budget money and bilateral money from Member States can be pooled.
- We will work with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to which the European Union with its Member States is a majority shareholder, to liberate a further €5 billion.
- We will also mobilise money (€250 million) from the Neighbourhood Investment Facility to leverage €3.5 billion of loans from bankable investment projects.
- And to coordinate the aid effort by the international community and the International Financial Institutions, we propose to create a special donor coordination mechanism. The European Union is ready to host in Brussels a meeting with interested partners for this purpose. Going beyond aid and moving to trade, the European Commission is ready to propose to the Council and the European Parliament to give an early unilateral application of the goods import provisions of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area in the Association agreement, which we stand ready to sign, meaning millions of valuable savings on import duties.

There are a number of other measures through which we are ready to support Ukraine. Let me just highlight one of them, energy, where we are looking in the short term at the gas transmission network to ensure that reverse flows with the European Union are fully operational.

You will find all details in the document that is going to be distributed to you very soon and that presents in a comprehensive manner all this different strands of support to Ukraine.

This is a package that needs to be complemented by further efforts of our Member States, of other international financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank and all partners that want to contribute.

The situation in Ukraine is a test of our capability and resolve to stabilise our neighbourhood and to provide new opportunities for many, not just a few. We need to be up to this challenge. I believe we are going to be up to this very important challenge for Ukraine and for Europe as a whole.

Thank you.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 5 March 2014

European Commission's support to Ukraine

The European Commission agreed today a package of support identifying a number of concrete measures to assist economically and financially Ukraine. These measures should be seen as the Commission's contribution to a European and international effort to support Ukraine's economic and political reforms, and will be presented to the EU Heads of State and Government ahead of their extraordinary meeting on Thursday 6 March.

"The most immediate priority for the EU is to contribute to a peaceful solution to the current crisis, in full respect of international law", said President Barroso. "In parallel, the international community should mobilise to help Ukraine stabilise its economic and financial situation. The European Commission is proposing today a package designed to assist a committed, inclusive and reforms oriented Government in rebuilding a stable and prosperous future for Ukraine.

What we propose could bring overall support of at least €11 billion over the next couple of years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions."

The package of support to Ukraine sets out the main concrete measures that the Commission is proposing for the short and medium term to help stabilise the economic and financial situation in Ukraine, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic reform.

This engagement constitutes both a response to help stabilise the country as well as to support the reform programme and further enhance ownership of the Ukrainian authorities. While some of these measures can be carried out quickly, others will require further planning and preparation. For many of them, the urgent and active support of the Council and European Parliament are necessary.

Underpinning this approach is the ambition to help Ukraine fulfil the aspirations which have been clearly demonstrated by citizens and civil society in recent weeks in the unprecedented events in Kiev and throughout the country.

Key elements of the package agreed today:

- €3 billion from the EU budget in the coming years, €1.6 billion in macro financial assistance loans (MFA) and an assistance package of grants of €1.4 billion;
- Up to €8 billion from the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- Potential €3.5 billion leveraged through the Neighbourhood Investment Facility;
- Setting up of a donor coordination platform;
- Provisional application of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area when Association Agreement is signed and, if need be, by autonomous frontloading of trade measures;
- Organisation of a High Level Investment Forum/Task Force;
- Modernisation of the Ukraine Gas Transit System and work on reverse flows, notably via Slovakia;
- Acceleration of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan within the established framework; Offer of a Mobility Partnership;
- Technical assistance on a number of areas from constitutional to judicial reform and preparation of elections.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
MEMO**

Brussels, 5 March 2014

European Commission's support to Ukraine

This document sets out the main concrete measures that the Commission is proposing for the short and medium term to help stabilise the economic and financial situation in Ukraine, assist with the transition, encourage political and economic reforms and support inclusive development for the benefit of all Ukrainians. These measures combined could bring overall support of at least **€11 billion** over the coming years from the EU budget and EU based international financial institutions (IFIs) in addition to the significant funding being provided by the IMF and World Bank.

All these measures should be seen as the Commission's contribution to a European and international effort at providing a sustainable way out of Ukraine's difficult economic situation and to support its economic and political transition. The action of Member States in complementing and reinforcing what the Commission can mobilise on its own is crucial. The participation of partner countries as well as of the international financial institutions, notably the IMF, the EIB, the EBRD and the World Bank, is essential to leverage what we can all offer, increase the visibility of our collective action and improve its impact. All elements and instruments need to be pulled together to ensure an effective and coherent European Union and international response.

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Part of the EU's effort is to support Ukraine on its path towards political and economic reform, including those set out in the Association Agreement /Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), which we stand ready to sign. It is essential to raise public awareness in Ukraine as well as in third countries on the benefits and opportunities that such reforms can offer both for Ukraine and the region as a whole.

Key elements of the package:

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- Up to €8 billion from the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
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- Modernisation of the Ukraine Gas Transit System and work on reverse flows, notably via Slovakia;
- Acceleration of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan within the established framework; Offer of a Mobility Partnership;
- Technical assistance on a number of areas from constitutional to judicial reform and preparation of elections.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Economic support takes the form of both macro financial and development assistance. The Commission is ready to mobilise some **€3 billion** from the EU budget in the coming years with the undertaking that a substantial amount of money can be made rapidly available to help Ukraine address its more urgent needs, including stabilising the financial situation and supporting the functioning of the new administration.

Macro-Financial Assistance:

A total of **€1.6 billion** is foreseen for macro financial assistance (MFA). In the short term, the Commission is ready to mobilise €610 million in loans under MFA which has already been agreed but is conditional on the signature of an agreement between the government and the IMF. The Commission is willing to propose further MFA of up to €1 billion. The Commission has already deployed a mission on the ground to assess Ukraine's financial needs and to prepare the ground for such MFA. This team is working closely with the IMF.

Development assistance:

Over the next seven years, a development assistance package to Ukraine in the form of **grants** could amount to a minimum of **€1.4 billion**.

The Commission is currently preparing a new **€140 million** programme for **2014** that would aim at improving the financial capability of the government and support the institutional transition, thus reinforcing the foreseen impact of the MFA. This would be complemented by actions aimed at supporting civil society. The size of such a programme could be **increased up to €200 million** if there were to be redeployment from within the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and if Ukraine were to benefit from the umbrella programme ("more for more") on the basis of proven progress in deepening democracy and respect of human rights.

For the remaining period of **2015-2020**, a yearly bilateral envelope of approximately **€130 million** is currently foreseen as part of the ENI with an **additional €40-50 million per year** from the afore-mentioned umbrella programme ("more-for-more") subject to proven progress in deepening democracy and respect of human rights and further significant funding from the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) described below.

As far as existing programmes are concerned, the Commission is currently funding a number of on-going sector budget support and technical assistance programmes which will provide input to the new Government in key areas such as economic development, public financial management

and justice. This represents approximately **€400 million**.

In addition, the NIF will be mobilised in favour of bankable investment projects in Ukraine. Experience with the implementation of the NIF in the East over the past programming period has shown that, for an amount of **€200-250 million of grants** foreseen for Ukraine **for blending**, one could expect a leverage effect that would generate loans of **up to €3.5 billion**. The participation of International Financing Institutions (IFIs) will be crucial to allow this leveraging and to exploit its full potential.

Within the NIF framework, the Commission is now working on the possibility of setting up a dedicated window to support the implementation of the AA/DCFTA for the relevant countries. This would allow our partners to have access to a guaranteed and dedicated envelope to support investment in sectors crucial for modernisation and the adoption of EU standards (in areas such as environment and energy). We are also looking at using this facility to further leverage the investment opportunities in the private sector.

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), formerly the Instrument for Stability, could be deployed to target urgent actions, for example, on police reform and electoral support. **Up to €20 million** could be mobilised quickly if appropriate actions are identified and **a further €15 million** could be added from the CFSP budget to support measures in relation to security sector reform.

Finally, Ukraine is the most important country for the EU for operations in the area of nuclear safety and security. Currently, projects are being implemented under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation for a total amount of **€50 million**, in the field of nuclear waste management and social projects in the affected area around the Chernobyl exclusion zone. In addition, a further envelope of **€36.5 million** can be contracted in the very short term for actions in this field. The programming period for the new financial period is on-going, which will allow the EU efforts in this area to be further stepped up.

The Commission reiterates its readiness to establish an **EU Trust Fund** should Member States support such an initiative. This would create a vehicle that would allow Member States to make substantial further financial contributions and would increase the visibility of the EU, including its Member States, and contribute to an effective, swift and coordinated disbursement of funds.

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the EU's own policy-driven bank and already has a project pipeline in Ukraine of up to **€1.5 billion for the next three years**. The EIB could significantly scale this up, without diverting from other regions, if adequate guarantee provisions were to be granted and if the political and operational conditions allow. The EIB could then provide financing for long-term investments of **up to €3 billion for 2014 – 2016** in support of both the local private sector and economic and social infrastructure. After the Mid-Term Review of the EIB External Lending Mandate planned by end 2016, the EIB could further increase its activity until 2020 via the activation of the **€3 billion** optional mandate already foreseen, subject to the agreement of additional funding by the budgetary authority.

In its operations, the EIB works closely together with the other IFIs active in the region thereby contributing to a significant leverage effect. The Commission will also explore the opportunity for ring fencing and front loading some of the additional guarantees for the EIB funds secured with the FEMIP reflows for AA/DCFTA related lending.

For its part, the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** is an IFI in which the EU and its Member States account for a majority of the shareholding. As part of a coordinated financial assistance programme in support of credible structural and macroeconomic reforms, the EBRD could make **€5 billion** available over the same period, though that amount could be exceeded if economic circumstances permit.

INTERNATIONAL DONOR CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM:

The Commission remains in close contact with both the IMF and the World Bank on the ground in Ukraine and at Headquarters. In order to help ensure effective delivery and maximise the impact of the EU economic and development assistance described above, as well as heighten its visibility, the Commission is exploring avenues to enhance international donor coordination by

setting up, together with the international community and IFIs, an ad hoc donor coordination mechanism.

Such a mechanism could take work forward on the basis of a needs assessment and of the reform programme prepared by the Ukrainian authorities, and provide a sustainable way out of Ukraine's difficult economic situation supporting economic and political transition.

This donor coordination mechanism could take the form of an **international platform** based in Kiev which would meet regularly to closely coordinate donor efforts to address the economic situation of the country. The political guidance will be provided by high level coordination meetings of the international platform. The Commission is willing to host the meetings in Brussels. This mechanism is open to the participation, namely, of EU Member States, IMF, World Bank, EBRD, EIB, and interested third countries. EU participation would be led on the ground by the EU Delegation.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

While economic and financial assistance are essential, trade and investment are also key instruments in helping secure long term sustainability for Ukraine. All Ukrainians stand to benefit enormously from the ambitious DCFTA trade deal with the EU. For example, Ukrainian exporters will save almost half a billion euros annually due to reduced EU import duties; Ukrainian agriculture will benefit from cuts in duties on agricultural and processed agricultural products of almost €400 million. The different levels of economic development of the EU and Ukraine are reflected by the asymmetrical nature of the Agreement. It is designed to provide Ukraine with favourable treatment, for example, through the faster and broader opening of the EU market by the front loading of tariff dismantlement granted by the EU combined with a longer period for similar measures on the Ukrainian side.

The Commission stands ready to react quickly to ensure the rapid provisional application of the AA/DCFTA once a decision on its signature has been made.

In the meantime, the Commission is ready to offer the early application of those provisions of the agreement related to the imports of goods (i.e. the reduction of tariffs and opening of tariff rate quotas) by proposing a draft Council/Parliament Regulation on such so called 'autonomous trade measures'. These transitional trade measures, unilateral in nature from the EU side, would allow Ukraine to benefit substantially from many of the advantages offered by the Agreement already now, that is to say, in the period until it could be signed and provisionally applied. However, the rapid implementation of such support measures would require a clear commitment by the Council and the EP to fast track the approval process.

As part of the effort to mobilise all of its assets and instruments in support of Ukraine at this exceptional time, the High Representative and the Commission are also ready to convene a High level Investment Forum/Task Force to explore investment and co-operation possibilities in Ukraine. This should bring together a wide range of private and public economic actors, Ukrainian and EU and IFIs together with the host country to maximise their collective impact and ensure a sustainable, democratic and prosperous future for the people of Ukraine. Such an event would also provide an opportunity to help Ukraine to maximise the benefits of autonomous trade measures and the AA/DCFTA.

ENERGY AND TRANSPORT:

Energy and energy security, and affordable prices, are essential for the stability and security of Ukraine. The EU will work with the new government in Ukraine, including through budget support, to ensure long term diversification of supplies and to make sure that the Ukrainian gas transmission system continues to be an essential transit route for gas supplies to the Europe. As such, the Commission will continue to work with the government in Ukraine to modernise its gas transmission system in co-operation with the EIB, EBRD and World Bank, as gas sector reforms in line with the Energy Community commitments are carried out. Provided that certain conditions are fulfilled, an initial loan could be possible in the near future.

In the short term, the Commission is ready to assist Ukraine in diversifying its gas supply routes, notably by ensuring that reverse flows with the EU, notably via Slovakia (in addition to Poland

and Hungary as is currently the case), can be operationalised as soon as possible. The Commission should ensure, together with Slovakia, that the Ukrainian and Slovakian transmission system operators establish the necessary rules and process that allows gas to flow from EU to Ukraine in increased capacities in order to enhance the security of supply in Ukraine. The text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the transmission system operators of Slovakia and Ukraine for the physical reverse flow via the Ukraine-Slovak pipeline was brokered by the Commission in December 2013 but was not signed. The Commission is ready to facilitate the signature by the two operators if requested. The Commission remains committed to continue working with the relevant Member States to facilitate the creation of additional reverse flow corridors to Ukraine via Bulgaria and Romania and via Croatia and Hungary.

In the medium term, should circumstances allow, the Commission continues to be ready to promote a trilateral approach (between EU, Russia and Ukraine) for the modernisation of the Ukrainian gas transmission system.

With regard to transport, following the initialling of the EU-Ukraine Common Aviation Area Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, the Commission is advancing rapidly in preparatory work to allow the Council to take a decision on the signature of the Agreement and stands ready for its early implementation. The Commission is determined to continue working on the enhancement of the EU-Ukraine transport relations, in particular in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Transport Panel.

MOBILITY:

Mobility is an important area where the Commission believes meaningful, visible, short-term steps should be taken. While a number of them depend on the political decisions of the Member States, the Commission is willing and ready to pro-actively facilitate swift and efficient coordination in this area. The Commission fully recognises the importance of mobility and people-to-people contacts for Ukrainian citizens and will support Ukrainian efforts to move forward the visa liberalisation process as quickly as possible in line with the agreed conditions of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan. Progress will of course depend on how the new authorities are able to tackle the most important outstanding issues. However, the Commission can and will do its utmost to help solve the remaining issues in an accelerated manner. Completing the visa liberalisation process will lead to the abolition of the visa obligation for Ukrainian citizens wishing to travel to the Schengen zone for up to 90 days within 180 days.

In the meantime, a Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA) is in operation between the EU and Ukraine and the Commission encourages Member States to fully exploit its potential. It gives Member States the possibility of choosing from a series of measures, including waiving visa fees for certain categories of citizens. In addition, the Visa Code gives the Member States additional options to waive the visa fees for further categories, such as, for example, children.

In addition, the Commission is willing, subject to the agreement of Member States, to offer Ukraine a Mobility Partnership promoting people-to-people contacts and legal migration options, and offering a framework for cooperation and practical support to the Ukrainian authorities going beyond the visa liberalisation process. Such a Mobility Partnership could be established very quickly should there be an interest on the Ukraine side to do so.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS AND EDUCATION:

Under the new Erasmus+ programme, the EU will offer more opportunities for student mobility, academic cooperation and youth exchanges. The Erasmus programme will support short-term student mobility in both directions to obtain credits in a host institution, which are then recognised by the home institution. It is estimated that more than 4,000 young Ukrainians will benefit from university exchanges under Erasmus+, and more than 7,000 will take part in youth projects and exchanges.

Staff mobility for training and teaching will also be promoted. Ukrainian students and universities will be able to participate in high-level joint Master degrees offered by consortia of European universities. Capacity building measures will be offered to universities, to modernise curricula, teaching practices, upgrade facilities and improve governance. Erasmus + will also

fund youth mobility through youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service and mobility of youth workers.

Ukraine will continue to take part in eTwinning for schools, with 101 schools and 280 teachers already registered since the official launch in March 2013. Researchers will be able to apply for doctoral or post-doctoral fellowships of other research grants available under the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS:

More broadly, the Commission remains committed to helping Ukraine build institutions which serve the interests of the state and the people by promoting good governance, rule of law and fighting corruption, etc. Making these institutions fit for purpose is not just an end in itself, but also a means to securing the country's medium and long term development, both socially and economically. Support for sustainable economic and political transition will also require grants providing technical expertise in many of the areas outlined in this paper.

In addition to this, the Commission and the High Representative will continue to provide support for **constitutional reform**, together with the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission. Assistance to support reform of the Prosecutor's Office and of the police through the EU-Ukraine Judiciary Reform Dialogue is also on-going. In addition, in the area of **electoral assistance**, the possibility of providing electoral support and technical assistance, including to monitoring in the context of an OSCE-ODHIR Electoral Observation Mission for future elections is being explored.

- **Restrictive measures:** The EU has demonstrated that it can act in a rapid and flexible manner to adopt the necessary relevant legislation. The Commission presented its proposal on Monday 24 February and is about to be adopted by the Council, updated to reflect the changing reality on the ground so as to now focus on the freezing and recovery of assets of persons identified as responsible for the misappropriation of State funds. The Commission stands ready to come forward with more proposals if and when necessary.

- **Humanitarian aid and civil protection:** The Commission has opened an antenna office in Kiev to monitor the situation and provide information, including to Member States, on humanitarian and civil protection issues. This office is in touch with with all main relief and aid organisations to coordinate any possible future activities and carry out contingency planning. The Commission stands ready to provide assistance from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism should Ukraine request it. In anticipation, the Commission has already asked Participating States to the Mechanism to take stock of possible medical related offers of assistance.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-159_en.htm?locale=en