

УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Оперативное совещание с постоянными членами Совета Безопасности

Владимир Путин провёл оперативное совещание с постоянными членами Совета Безопасности. Участники совещания, в частности, обсудили взаимодействие Российской Федерации со странами Центральной Америки и Карибского бассейна, а также ситуацию на Украине.

13 марта 2014 года, 17:40

Сочи

В.Путин: Добрый день, уважаемые коллеги!

У нас с вами сегодня один плановый вопрос и один вне плана. Первый плановый – это развитие отношений Российской Федерации со странами Центральной Америки и Карибского бассейна.

А второй – разумеется, мы не можем обойти вниманием те события, которые складываются вокруг Украины, Крыма и всего, что касается этой непростой проблемы, которая возникла, хочу это подчеркнуть, не по нашей вине. Этот кризис возник, и мы вовлечены так или иначе в него. Хочу отметить, что это, прежде всего, внутриукраинский кризис. К сожалению, мы все понимаем, что мы оказались так или иначе вовлечёнными в эти события.

Давайте подумаем вместе на тему, как нам строить отношения с нашими партнёрами и друзьями в Украине и с другими нашими партнёрами в Европе и в Соединённых Штатах. Начнём с планового, первого вопроса.

МЗС РФ

З заявою Постійного представника РФ при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.Б.Карасина с Министром иностранных дел Казахстана Е.А.Идрисовым

540-13-03-2014

13 марта по инициативе казахстанской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации Г.Б.Карасина с Министром иностранных дел Республики Казахстан Е.А.Идрисовым.

С позиций стратегического партнерства и союзничества двух стран было рассмотрено развитие ситуации на Украине, в т.ч. ее международные аспекты.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Госсекретарем США Дж.Керри

538-13-03-2014

13 марта по американской инициативе состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова и Государственного секретаря США Дж.Керри.

Обсуждалась кризисная ситуация на Украине с учетом имеющихся предложений России и США по нормализации обстановки и обеспечению гражданского мира в этой стране. Министр и Госсекретарь договорились продолжить диалог в ходе двусторонней встречи в Лондоне 14 марта.

Заявление МИД России по украинскому сюжету в контексте СНГ

537-13-03-2014

МИД России с сожалением воспринял появившиеся в СМИ комментарии представителей МИД Украины и переданную в Исполком СНГ ноту, в которых говорится о якобы «отказе государств-участников СНГ обсуждать ситуацию в Украине».

Хотели бы разъяснить хронологию и суть событий.

11 марта с.г. в Минске по инициативе украинской стороны состоялось внеочередное заседание Совета постоянных полномочных представителей при уставных и других органах Содружества под председательством Постоянного полномочного представителя Украины при координационных институтах СНГ И.Г.Бунечко. На нем обсуждался вопрос о предложениях государств-участников СНГ в связи с инициативой Украины о проведении внеочередного заседания Совета министров иностранных дел СНГ.

По итогам заседания стороны решили «в связи с отсутствием согласия большинства государств-участников СНГ на проведение инициированного Украиной внеочередного заседания Совета министров иностранных дел СНГ 12 марта 2014 года в городе Киеве, поддержать предложение о проведении 14 марта текущего года в городе Минске встречи на уровне заместителей министров иностранных дел государств-участников СНГ для обсуждения ситуации, сложившейся в Украине».

МИД России нотой от 11 марта информировал Исполнительный комитет СНГ о своем согласии на эту встречу 14 марта в Минске. Хотим подтвердить, что мы были и остаемся готовы к ее проведению. Дело за украинской стороной, которая в ноте своего МИД заявила, что такая встреча для нее неприемлема.

Комментарий Департамента информации и печати МИД России в связи с заявлением Министра иностранных дел Франции Л.Фабиуса в отношении Всеукраинского объединения «Свобода»

534-13-03-2014

Не могли не обратить внимание на высказывания Министра иностранных дел Франции Л.Фабиуса, заявившего 11 марта с.г. в эфире радиостанции «Франс Интер», что представленная в правительстве Украины партия «Свобода» «лишь немного правее других партий». Известно, что деятельность данной партии носит откровенно националистический характер. Более того, она придерживается расистских, антисемитских и ксенофобных взглядов, ее идеологический арсенал включает, в частности, призыв запретить использование русского языка на Украине.

Вызывает непонимание то, с какой легкостью некоторые наши партнеры на Западе «адаптируют» свои подходы ради сиюминутных геополитических дивидендов. Вынуждены напомнить, что совсем недавно они оценивали эту партию и ее лидеров с более объективных позиций. Так, в резолюции Европарламента от 13 декабря 2012 г. по итогам прохождения партии «Свобода» в Верховную Раду содержится ее четкое осуждение за взгляды, противоречащие фундаментальным ценностям и принципам ЕС, а к демократическим партиям Рады обращен призыв не сотрудничать со «Свободой».

Сейчас же складывается ситуация, когда руководители «Свободы», в том числе такая одиозная фигура, как О.Тягнибок, стали на Западе вполне уважаемыми лицами. Считаю опасной подобную эрозию принципиальной линии на неприятие любых проявлений национализма, ксенофобии и антисемитизма, проводником которых является украинская партия «Свобода». Надеюсь, что ответственные политики не преминут сделать правильные выводы.

УКРАЇНА

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

Заступник Голови Верховної Ради України Руслан Кошулинський у четвер 13 березня 2014 року зустрівся з Помічником Генерального секретаря ООН з прав людини Іваном Шимоновичем.

Р.Кошулинський поінформував І.Шимоновича про події, які відбуваються в Україні останнім часом, та акцентував на "відсутності якісної гарантії" з боку країн, що підписали Меморандум про гарантії безпеки у зв'язку з приєднанням України до Договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї. "Позиція ООН надзвичайно вагомая, від неї залежатиме наступний розвиток світової безпеки", – наголосив він.

Заступник керівника Парламенту також підкреслив, що "Україна стоятиме на тій позиції, щоб у дипломатичний, ненасильницький спосіб знайти порозуміння і зобов'язати Російську Федерацію припинити анексію Криму".

Під час розмови Сторони дійшли висновку, що їхні позиції щодо причин виникнення політичного протистояння в Україні повністю співпадають. Зокрема, І.Шимонович зазначив, що, на його думку, ці проблеми існували ще до моменту повстання українського народу. За його словами, вони пов'язані зі сферою безпеки та судочинства: порушення прав людини та свободи слова. "Це брак підзвітності органів внутрішніх справ, політизована система прокуратури, брак незалежності суддівського корпусу, глибоко поширена корупція", – сказав він.

Помічник Генерального секретаря також додав, що все це негативно вплинуло на соціально-економічну сферу суспільства. "Ці глибинні порушення і привели до повстання країни", – сказав І.Шимонович.

Окрім цього, Помічник Генерального секретаря ООН з прав людини відзначив "надмірне вживання сили проти мирно протестуючих". Він висловився за ефективне розслідування "так званої "справи снайперів". "Надмірна кількість загиблих вимагає розслідування того, хто це зробив", – сказав він і додав, що "надзвичайно важливо, щоб розслідування цієї справи було доведено до кінця".

Сторони також обговорили питання дотримання прав людини в Україні, зокрема, у частині статусу мов національних меншин та під час можливої люстрації.

Торкаючись питання щодо статусу мов національних меншин, Р.Кошулинський зазначив, що за ініціативою Парламенту було створено Тимчасову спеціальну комісію Верховної Ради України з підготовки проекту закону про розвиток і застосування мов в Україні. Комісія, до складу якої увійшли представники усіх парламентських фракцій, за участю експертів та науковців різних наукових шкіл з усіх регіонів України, у тому числі з Автономної Республіки Крим, має, на його переконання, врахувати інтереси національних меншин щодо мов, якими вони говорять.

Заступник керівника Парламенту висловив сподівання, що необхідний законопроект українська Сторона завершить до кінця поточного місяця. Наступним кроком мають стати висновки Венеціанської комісії.

На думку Помічника Генерального секретаря ООН, надзвичайно важливо зробити цей

процес інклюзивним, аби надати "можливість національним меншинам взяти участь у широкому процесі обговорення питання". "У разі забезпечення інклюзивності цей процес знизить напруження у суспільстві", – наголосив він.

Щодо питання люстрації Р.Кошулинський зазначив, що подібна процедура у таких країнах, як Польща, Чехія надала поштовх розвитку цих країн. На його думку, "непроведення очищення люстрацією може викликати незаконні дії вулиці". Водночас, підкреслив він, "кожна людина має право бути почутою". "Не повинно бути вживати заходів до будь-якої групи людей у незаконний спосіб", – наголосив Заступник Голови Верховної Ради.

І.Шимонович побажав українцям подолати виклики, що стоять перед країною, та підкреслив, що ООН всіляко підтримуватиме Україну.

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

КМ України

Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у Вашингтоні зустрівся з Президентом США Бараком Обамою

13.03.2014 | 00:08 Департамент інформації та комунікацій з громадськістю Секретаріату КМУ

У середу, 12 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у Білому Домі у Вашингтоні зустрівся з Президентом США Бараком Обамою. Як повідомив Арсеній Яценюк журналістам по завершенні зустрічі, відбулася «відкрита дискусія, як подолати драматичний конфлікт, який відбувається в Україні».

Прем'єр-міністр зазначив, що насамперед йшлося про військове вторгнення, що відбулося на українську територію. «Україна бореться за свою свободу, свою незалежність і суверенність. І ми ніколи не здамося», – підкреслив він.

Як наголосив глава Уряду, найважливіший виклик для України – військовий. «Ми закликаємо Росію дотримуватися міжнародних зобов'язань, відвести свою армію до бараків та почати діалог – без автоматів, танків і армії, а з дипломатією та політичними механізмами».

«Ми досі переконані, що є шанси відвести російських військових дипломатичними та політичними методами», – сказав Арсеній Яценюк.

«Від імені Уряду України хочу заявити, що ми повністю готові і відкриті до переговорів із Російською Федерацією. Ми дотримуємося всіх міжнародних зобов'язань і ми як держава Україна виконаємо всі двосторонні та багатосторонні міжнародні договори», – підкреслив Прем'єр-міністр.

Як зазначив Арсеній Яценюк, в найближчому майбутньому, «наступного тижня або протягом десяти днів» Україна має підписати політичну частину Угоди про асоціацію з ЄС. «Ми хочемо чітко зазначити, що Україна є і буде частиною Західного світу», – сказав Арсеній Яценюк.

Він наголосив, що російські партнери «повинні усвідомити, що ми готові створити новий тип відносин, де Україна – це частина ЄС, але й добрий друг та партнер із Росією».

«Усе залежить від того, чи Росія хоче таких переговорів та чи хоче бачити Україну як партнера або ж як підлеглого. Адже ми ніколи не здамося і зробимо все, щоб зберегти мир, стабільність і незалежність України», – підкреслив Глава Уряду.

Глава Уряду також підкреслив, що українська сторона високо цінує підтримку США та рішення гарантувати 1 млрд доларів для української економіки.

Він нагадав, що Україна відновила переговори з МВФ, і Уряд готовий до того, аби провести реальні реформи в Україні: «Ми усвідомлюємо, що це складні реформи, але вони необхідні для української держави».

«Переконані, що в найближчому майбутньому Уряд України буде готовий провести

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

реальні зміни. Але для цього необхідно зупинити російську армію. І це головна передумова», – наголосив Прем'єр-міністр.

У рамках робочого візиту Арсенія Яценюка до США 12-13 березня заплановано його зустрічі в Конгресі США, а також з керівництвом Міжнародного валютного фонду та Світового банку.

У четвер, 13 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України виступить на засіданні Ради Безпеки ООН у Нью-Йорку, під час якого обговорюватиметься ситуація в Україні.

Ми отримали дуже чітку заяву, що ЄС та США зроблять усе, щоб підтримати український народ та зберегти Україну, – А.Яценюк

13.03.2014 | 02:02 Департамент інформації та комунікацій з громадськістю Секретаріату КМУ

«Західний світ відданий тому, щоб зберегти цілісність і незалежність України», – наголосив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк під час виступу на Атлантичній Раді у Вашингтоні в ході робочого візиту до США в середу, 12 березня.

«Ми дуже цінуємо підтримку, яку надає американський народ, Президент та Уряд США народу України», – зазначив Арсеній Яценюк.

Як наголосив Прем'єр-міністр, дуже важливо, що Європейський Союз та США «говорять в один голос»: «Ми отримали дуже чітку заяву, що ЄС та США зроблять усе можливе, щоб підтримати український народ та зберегти Україну».

«Я задоволений тим, як США та ЄС допомагають нам вийти з кризи», – додав Арсеній Яценюк.

Він також нагадав, що Україна вже отримала пакет фінансової допомоги від західних партнерів: «Він на столі. Ми ще маємо укласти угоду з МВФ, але ми вже отримали 1 млрд. доларів як гарантії для стабілізації української економіки».

Глава Уряду підкреслив, що Україна переживає драматичні часи: «Те, що відбувається, було абсолютно непередбачувано для мене і неприйнятно для світу. Без жодних причин наш партнер у минулому – та я досі переконаний, що ця країна може стати партнером у майбутньому – почала вторгнення в Україну, суверенну й незалежну державу».

«Ми досі переконані, що цю військову кризу можна вирішити дипломатією та політичними механізмами. З плином часу шанси на це не такі великі, як, наприклад, минулого тижня. Але ці можливості є», – підкреслив він.

За словами Арсенія Яценюка, перший сценарій президента РФ Володимира Путіна – «заволодіти Кримом в тій чи іншій формі»: «Але він може піти далі. І в Росії є інший сценарій – як захопити всю Україну, в тому числі українську столицю. Все залежить від персональних його (президента Путіна. – ред.) цілей».

«Кілька років тому він (президент Путін. – ред.) сказав, що найбільша катастрофа минулого сторіччя – це розпад Радянського Союзу. Я б сказав, що найбільшою катастрофою цього сторіччя було б відновлення Радянського Союзу», – підкреслив Арсеній Яценюк.

Українці не біжать до Росії

13.03.2014 | 11:44 Прес-служба Державної прикордонної служби

У зв'язку з появою в російських засобах масової інформації повідомлень про нібито тисячі українських біженців, Державна прикордонна служба України закрила статистичну звітність щодо перетину державного кордону України громадянами за січень-лютий 2014 року.

Інформуємо, що упродовж січня-лютого 2014 року прикордонники в установленому

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

порядку оформили та пропустили через державний кордон на виїзд до Російської Федерації майже 890 тисяч громадян України. З них, протягом січня 2014 року до Росії прямувало 480 тисяч українців, а в лютому 2014 року – 405 тисяч. При цьому дані показники залишаються на рівні минулого року.

Таким чином у лютому поточного року, порівняно з січнем 2014 року, кількість перетинів державного кордону громадянами України на виїзд до Росії зменшилась на 16%.

Арсеній Яценюк у Вашингтоні зустрівся з представниками української діаспори
13.03.2014 | 16:00 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У четвер, 13 березня, у Вашингтоні Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк поклав квіти до пам'ятника Тарасові Шевченку та зустрівся з представниками української діаспори.

Арсеній Яценюк розповів діаспорцям про ситуацію в Україні, зокрема в Криму. А також про кроки, які вживає Уряд України для врегулювання ситуації.

Українці США висловили народу України та Главі Уряду свою підтримку.

Зараз у рамках візиту Арсенія Яценюка до Сполучених Штатів Америки відбувається його зустріч із віце-президентом США Джо Байденом.

Сьогодні Прем'єр-міністр також виступить на засіданні Ради Безпеки ООН у Нью-Йорку, під час якого обговорюватиметься ситуація в Україні.

Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у Вашингтоні зустрівся з Віце-президентом США Джо Байденом
13.03.2014 | 16:16 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У четвер, 13 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк в рамках робочого візиту до США зустрівся з Віце-президентом США Джо Байденом.

Сторони обговорили питання врегулювання кризи в Україні.

Арсеній Яценюк та Джо Байден обговорили також можливості різних форм співпраці України та Сполучених Штатів Америки з урахуванням пропозицій Державного департаменту США щодо стратегії співробітництва з Україною.

Сьогодні Арсеній Яценюк також виступить на засіданні Ради Безпеки ООН у Нью-Йорку, під час якого обговорюватиметься ситуація в Україні.

У Вашингтоні Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з керівництвом Палати Представників Конгресу США
13.03.2014 | 17:53 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У четвер, 13 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у рамках робочого візиту до Сполучених Штатів Америки провів зустріч зі Спікером Палати Представників Конгресу США Джоном Бейнером, лідером більшості в Палаті Представників Еріком Кантором та лідером демократів у Палаті Представників Ненсі Пелосі.

Американські законодавці запевнили у своєму намірі консолідувати двопартійні зусилля з метою надання невідкладної, а також довготермінової допомоги Україні та її Уряду для проведення невідкладних реформ.

Вони наголосили, що питання збереження територіальної цілісності та суверенітету

України для членів Палати Представників Конгресу США є принциповим.

Українська сторона висловила сподівання, що в найближчий час у Конгресі буде ухвалено законопроект, який дозволить Україні за новою системою розподілу квот отримати додаткові 600 млн. доларів.

Сьогодні Арсеній Яценюк також виступить на засіданні Ради Безпеки ООН у Нью-Йорку, під час якого обговорюватиметься ситуація в Україні.

Арсеній Яценюк виступив на Раді Безпеки ООН в Нью-Йорку

13.03.2014 | 22:13 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У четвер, 13 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк виступив на засіданні Ради Безпеки Організації Об'єднаних Націй в Нью-Йорку.

Арсеній Яценюк підкреслив, що Україна стикнулася з військовою агресією країни-сусіда, яка є одним із п'яти постійних членів Ради Безпеки ООН: «Ця агресія не має жодних причин і передумов. Це абсолютно неприпустимо у 21 столітті розв'язувати будь-які конфлікти з танками, артилерією та армією на території».

Він наголосив, що Російська Федерація порушила низку двосторонніх та багатосторонніх міжнародних угод, підписаних Україною та Росією: «Ми переконані, що ніким не ставиться під сумнів стаття 2 Статуту ООН, яка каже, що всі члени ООН утримуються в своїх міжнародних відносинах від погрози силою або її застосування як проти територіальної недоторканності або політичної незалежності будь-якої держави, так і якимось іншим чином, несумісним із цілями Об'єднаних Націй».

Арсеній Яценюк також зазначив, що військова присутність (на території України. – ред.) чітко ідентифікована: «Це російська військова присутність, із російськими номерними знаками на машинах».

«Закликаємо Російську Федерацію відвести її війська, розміщені в Криму, і почати реальні розмови і переговори, аби подолати цей конфлікт», – наголосив Прем'єр-міністр.

«Ми досі переконані, що в нас є шанс вирішити цей конфлікт мирним шляхом. Висловлюємо шану українським військовим, які утримуються від будь-якого застосування сили», – підкреслив Глава Уряду.

Як наголосив він, цей конфлікт виходить поза межі регіону. Арсеній Яценюк нагадав, що 1994 року Україна відмовилася від атомної зброї й було підписано Будапештський меморандум: «Ми відмовилися від третього в світі за розміром арсеналу атомної зброї. І згідно з Будапештським меморандумом його підписанти гарантували територіальну цілісність, суверенність і незалежність української держави».

«Те, як діють наші російські партнери – і, переконаний, якщо ми почнемо реальні переговори з Росією, то вони зможуть стати справжніми партнерами, – підриває глобальну безпеку та програму ядерного роззброєння. Адже після цих дій буде дуже складно переконати будь-кого в світі не мати ядерної зброї», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк.

Він ще раз підкреслив, що українська влада абсолютно відкрита до переговорів: «Ми хочемо реальних переговорів. Ми не хочемо жодної військової агресії».

Він звернувся до Російської Федерації: «Чи хочуть росіяни війни? Як Прем'єр-міністр України, яка протягом десятиліть мала теплі й дружні відносини з Росією, я переконаний, що росіяни не хочуть війни. Сподіваюся, російська влада й російський президент прислухаються до свого народу, ми повернемося за стіл переговорів і негайно вирішимо цей конфлікт».

З заявами Прем'єр-міністра України А.П.Яценюка на засіданні РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Крим був, є і буде невід’ємною частиною України – Арсеній Яценюк на Раді Безпеки ООН в Нью-Йорку

13.03.2014 | 23:51 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

«Крим був, є і буде невід’ємною частиною України. Ми ніколи не визнаємо штучно організованого і фальсифікованого так званого референдуму», – наголосив Прем’єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк на Раді Безпеки ООН в Нью-Йорку в четвер, 13 березня. Арсеній Яценюк наголосив, що українська влада готова до загальнонаціонального діалогу для розширення повноважень Автономної Республіки Крим – «в українському парламенті конституційним шляхом».

Український Уряд, як наголосив Прем’єр-міністр, відданий тому, аби виконати всі міжнародні зобов’язання: «Ми дотримуємося всіх двосторонніх та багатосторонніх угод, які Україна підписала і ратифікувала».

Як підкреслив Глава Уряду, українська влада буде захищати й відстоювати кожну меншину в Україні: «Ми захищатимемо кожного громадянина України».

«Ми керуємося принципом української Конституції. Єдина мова, окрім української, яка згадана в статті 10 Конституції України, – це російська», – зазначив він.

Арсеній Яценюк наголосив, що Уряд України готовий до відкритого діалогу: «Ми простягнули Росії свою руку, але у відповідь отримали приціл автомата».

«Проте ми досі віримо, що Росія готова вести переговори і мирним шляхом подолати цей драматичний конфлікт – не лише в наших двосторонніх відносинах, а й у всій Європі», – наголосив Прем’єр-міністр.

«Ми просимо правди. Історія нас розсудить. І ми маємо шанс створити цю історію. Ми зробимо все можливе, щоб зберегти мир та стабільність і врятувати мою країну», – підкреслив Арсеній Яценюк.

МЗСУ

Ситуація у Криму станом на 13.03.2014

(ПП України при ЄС)

13 березня 2014, 19:26

The Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine, is being occupied by foreign troops.

On March 13, 2014, the developments were characterized by the following:

Extension of Russia’s military presence on the peninsula, criminal activities by members of Russian extremist organizations

- In Donetsk, extremists who came from Russia attacked anti-war rally leaving at least two people dead and more than fifty injured
- In Donuzlav Bay, Russia’s military has sunk the fourth of its vessels in order to block the exit for Ukrainian ships
- Strengthening of Russian military block-posts in the villages of Chongar, Armyansk and Dzanhgara on the Crimean border with mainland Ukraine
- Beginning of more aggressive phase of destabilization of Ukraine’s Border Guard Service’s activities in Crimea in a form of intimidation and ultimatums of surrender
- Violation of Ukraine’s airspace by intensified flights of Russian military planes
- Extension of Russia’s military presence in a form of entrance of 3 military vessels in Azov Sea aquatorium
- Altogether, Russia has moved at least 308 units of ground military transportation on the territory of Crimea, including 4 rocket systems “Grad”, 191 military trucks and 40 armored vehicles

Illegal separatist activities of self-proclaimed pro-Russian “puppet” government

- Announcement of plans to transfer the rights for extraction of Crimean energy resource to Russia’s “Gazprom”
- Statement by leader of Crimean “puppet government” indicating intention to take control over Ukraine’s state energy company “Chornomornaftogaz”
- In Feodosia, state petroleum provision company was seized by so-called “self-defense” forces
- Decision of “puppet government” to limit to 300 hryvnias the issuance by ATM machines and to work out a plan of nationalization of Ukraine’s commercial banks in Crimea
- As of today, at least four activists of Crimea’s “Euromaidan” are missing

Вступне слово заступника Міністра закордонних справ України Данила Лубківського на брифінгу для ЗМІ

13 березня 2014, 17:30

Шановні колеги,

Хочу зробити декілька заяв, які стосуються актуальних питань зовнішньої політики України.

Насамперед, ми вітаємо результати переговорів у Вашингтоні.

Відбулася зустріч Прем’єр-міністра України Арсенія Яценюка з Президентом США Бараком Обамою, продовжуються інші зустрічі з американськими високопосадовцями, а також представниками світових фінансових інститутів.

Результати дуже практичні і важливі. Ми високо оцінюємо підсумки переговорів у Вашингтоні.

Насамперед, відчуваємо дуже чітку і сильну спільну солідарну позицію США та ЄС на підтримку України у ситуації, коли наша держава зазнала агресії з боку Російської Федерації, коли частина України окупована і коли порушуються права людини у Криму.

Стосовно США. Ми перебуваємо на початку принципово нового і дуже цікавого, обнадійливого етапу у відносинах із Сполученими Штатами – етапу інтенсифікованого співробітництва. Про це заявлено на зустрічі Прем’єр-міністра України і Президента США.

Схвалюється рішення про кредитні гарантії на 1 млрд. дол. США й пакет технічної та іншої допомоги.

Ми відновлюємо роботу Комісії стратегічного партнерства на міністерському рівні (у сферах ядерної безпеки та нерозповсюдження, політичного діалогу та верховенства права, енергетичної безпеки, безпекового співробітництва та науки й технологій).

Найближчим часом проводимо консультації з питань оборони на рівні Міністерств Оборони України та США.

Ми розпочинаємо підготовку Американсько-українського бізнес саміту у Вашингтоні.

Ми розпочинаємо роботу над створенням Інноваційної Ради. Це дуже цікавий і дуже практичний напрям. Йде мова про створення екосистеми, яка необхідна для пришвидшення розвитку підприємництва та правової культури й інфраструктури для інновацій в Україні.

В Україні вже перебувають представники Міністерства юстиції та команди ФБР для стратегічного консультування з пошуку незаконним чином отриманих коштів колишніх високо посадовців України. В цій справі додаткову допомогу й технічну експертизу надасть Державний департамент США.

Ми очікуємо на експертну допомогу Міністерству фінансів України та НБУ для подолання короткотермінових викликів.

Є конкретні домовленості, які стосуються безпосередньо людей.

Розширюється фінансування року запуску Програми імені Фулбрайта у галузі науки і

техніки («Фулбрайт-СТЕР») – пілотний проект, в рамках якого буде повністю відшкодований переїзд та навчання обраної групи українських студентів магістрантів в університетах США протягом 2014-2015 навчального року.

Удвічі збільшується кількість українських студентів, які братимуть участь у Програмі обміну для студентів на 2014-2015 навчальний рік.

Понад 50 майбутніх лідерів України матимуть можливість взяти участь у короткострокових обмінах. Передбачаються інноваційні гранти.

Отже, маємо хороші, обнадійливі результати з першого дня перебування Прем'єр-міністра України Арсенія Яценюка, а також Міністра закордонних справ України Андрія Дешиці у Вашингтоні.

МЗС України позитивно оцінює те, що в прискореному режимі Сенат США впродовж одного дня розглянув та схвалив внесену сенатором Річардом Дурбіном у співавторстві з 32 іншими сенаторами резолюцію «Засудження неправомірної російської агресії в Україні».

Ця резолюція, у разі остаточного схвалення, матиме суттєві наслідки для російської сторони. Вона носить пропозицію використати всі можливі економічні елементи для захисту незалежності, суверенітету та економічної цілісності України. В цьому проекті висловлюється пропозиція про припинення членства Росії у В8 тощо.

Про ООН. Сьогодні Прем'єр-міністр України буде у Нью-Йорку. Планується його виступ у Раді Безпеки щодо ситуації в Україні та зустріч з Генеральним секретарем ООН Бан Кі-муном.

Ми надаємо великого значення цій події. Рада Безпеки, як вам добре відомо, це єдиний орган, уповноважений вирішувати проблеми міжнародного миру та безпеки.

Ми донесемо нашу позицію на найвищому державному рівні, на найвищому урядовому рівні. Ми очікуємо підтвердження тієї одностайної міжнародної солідарності на підтримку територіальної цілісності і непорушності кордонів України, яка звучить сьогодні, в тому числі і в Раді Безпеки ООН.

Про Крим. Росія унеможлиблює об'єктивне інформування світового співтовариства про справжню ситуацію в АР Крим. Ми рішуче і категорично засуджуємо такий підхід.

Помічнику Генсекретаря ООН з питань прав людини Івану Шимоновичу було відмовлено в можливості здійснити запланований на 12 березня візит до АР Крим.

Також на територію АР Крим не було допущено інспекторів ОБСЄ, які з 5 березня ц. р. перебувають в Україні.

У Відні лише російська делегація не дає згоди на направлення до Криму спостережної місії ОБСЄ відповідно до мандату, який підтримується усіма іншими державами-учасницями Організації.

Ми фіксуємо і засуджуємо численні приклади порушення прав людини у Криму. Я маю перелік понад 50 позицій.

Кілька сотень людей, переважно кримські татари, приїхали із Криму як біженці на територію кількох регіонів України.

З ефірних і кабельних мереж вимкнені всі українські загальнонаціональні телевізійні канали та найпотужніший регіональний – ТРК «Чорноморка».

Задokumentовано понад 70 випадків брутальних порушень прав журналістів і перешкоджань їхній діяльності. Фактично в Криму запроваджено тотальну цензуру інформаційного простору.

Це – атмосфера нетерпимості, негласності, недемократичності і ми категорично засуджуємо такі підходи і таке ставлення до прав та інтересів громадян.

Ми також не можемо не помічати антиукраїнської істерії, яка продовжується в Росії, ми з великим сумом бачимо, як заручниками цієї істерії стають звичайні люди. Діячі мистецтв, які сьогодні благословляють наступ на Україну практично сил, які кидають виклик практично всій системі міжнародних відносин. Ця позиція печальна не відповідає тому високому духу української культури, який ми з вами любимо і високо цінуємо.

Колеги,

Ми висловлюємо велику розчарованість бездіяльністю та позицією СНД у нинішніх критичних обставинах.

СНД перебуває під впливом Росії, цей вплив монопольний або практично монопольний.

СНД самоусунулася від прийняття відповідальних політичних рішень щодо базових принципів співіснування держав. Такий підхід, безумовно, не є прийнятним для України. І такий підхід не може мати жодної хорошої перспективи.

Колеги,

Хочу підкреслили, ми мобілізували всі можливі зусилля, у нас є простір для подальшої роботи, ми чітко уявляємо меню цих зусиль, ми бачимо, які наступні кроки можуть відбутися.

Українська зовнішньополітична служба чітко розуміє усі важелі і інструменти впливу на ситуацію.

Світ, фактично, одностайно підтримує України.

Ніхто, ніколи не матиме права «вето» на суверенну зовнішню політику України.

Відбулися телефонні розмови заступника Міністра закордонних справ України Данила Лубківського із заступниками глав МЗС Литви, Польщі, Латвії, Угорщини та Словаччини

13 березня 2014, 19:09

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Данило Лубківський провів телефонні розмови з заступниками глав зовнішньополітичних відомств Литви Андрюсом Кривасом, Польщі Катаржиною Пелчинською-Наленч, Латвії Андрейсом Пілдеговичсом, Угорщини Саболчем Токачем та Словаччини Петером Буріаном.

У центрі уваги перебували питання практичної підтримки України з боку європейських партнерів у контексті якнайшвидшого врегулювання дипломатичними засобами ситуації навколо російського вторгнення в АРК.

Співрозмовники також підтвердили рішучу підтримку євроінтеграційного курсу нашої держави напередодні підписання політичної частини Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС. Досягнуто домовленості активізувати багатосторонню взаємодію у рамках регіональних інституцій, зокрема Вишеградської четвірки та NB-8.

У ході телефонних розмов було також окреслено алгоритм першочергових заходів, спрямованих на поглиблення двосторонніх відносин з Литвою, Польщею, Латвією, Угорщиною та Словаччиною.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

США

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Vice President

March 13, 2014

The Vice President met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk this morning at the White House. The Vice President commended the Prime Minister for the Ukrainian government's commitment to move forward to stabilize Ukraine and its economy. He reiterated that the United States stands firmly behind Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Vice President underscored the continued strong support of the United States, and his personal support, as Ukrainians chart their own

course for a democratic future.

U.S. Treasury Secretary's Meeting with Ukrainian PM

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Washington, D.C.

March 13, 2014

Today, Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to discuss the Ukrainian government's economic reform plans, the U.S. assistance package for Ukraine, and Ukraine's discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about a potential loan program.

During the meeting, Secretary Lew and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk discussed the ongoing IMF mission and the importance of Ukraine taking ownership of the reform agenda to restore its financial stability and economic growth. Secretary Lew emphasized that the international community stands ready to support Ukraine as the government implements these necessary reforms. The Secretary and the Prime Minister agreed that securing passage of IMF quota legislation is needed to maximize the international community's support to Ukraine.

Secretary Lew outlined the possible U.S. loan guarantee and its conditions, which would complement the international assistance and require Congressional approval. He noted that the Ukrainian government's willingness to commit to ambitious reforms would impact the timing of the guarantee, and asked for Prime Minister Yatsenyuk's suggestions about how the loan agreement could be structured to facilitate this.

З заявою Постійного представника США при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН

Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, At A Security Council Stakeout on Ukraine

March 13, 2014

Ambassador Power: Hi everybody. Thanks for joining us today. I'd like to start by welcoming Prime Minister Yatsenyuk – who I know has just departed –and thanking him for joining the Security Council today and for his timely and moving briefing. We just heard the prime minister speak to the future Ukraine wishes for itself and for its people – a future in which they do not have to choose between east and west.

Importantly, we heard the prime minister prioritize internal reconciliation, plans for free and fair elections and political inclusivity, including the proposal to create a task force to consider the possibility of enhanced autonomy for Crimea within Ukraine. These are the actions and dispositions of a government committed to the rule of law and focused on finding a peaceful way forward.

We also heard another country's vision for Ukraine. If the May 25th elections offer an opportunity under the law for all Ukrainians to participate in charting their shared future, Sunday's referendum in Crimea, by contrast, is illegal, unjustified, and divisive. It will be administered under the barrel of a gun rather than under the eyes of international observers. And it presents a laughably cynical false choice between joining Russia now or joining Russia later.

Any referendum on Crimea must be conducted within the bounds of Ukrainian law and the United States joins with others in calling for its suspension. We also call on the Russian Federation to halt its military intervention and refrain from any further actions in support of this illegitimate and destabilizing effort.

We are at a critical moment, as you heard from all Council members. The way forward is clear. Russian forces must return to their bases. International human rights monitors must be allowed into Crimea. And all countries must respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. It is not too late, but we are running out of time.

Thank you. I will take your questions.

Reporter: Madam ambassador, do you think at this point in time, this situation, as it is, is a no-win situation? Until...unless the Russians completely withdraw, as you have said that they should, this crisis will not continue to precipitate?

Ambassador Power: Not sure – the question was: is there hope to get out of this crisis?

Reporter: Yeah. Yes.

Ambassador Power: Well, it is Thursday. This illegitimate referendum has been scheduled for Sunday. So, by definition, there is time. Secretary Kerry is getting on a plane – if he hasn't already – to go and meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov. And I'm hopeful that Russia has heard the voices, not only of the prime minister of Ukraine and the kind of future that he wishes – one that respects the Russian language, enshrines the Russian language in the constitution, keeps it there, respects the rights of Russian minorities, wants a future, again, where Ukraine doesn't choose between east and west, but lives side by side in the way that the Ukrainian prime minister has described and in the way that so many Ukrainian people have said they wish. I'm hopeful that Russia heard that, but also heard the voices of 14 Council members talking about the essential importance of territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence. And you heard the prime minister say that he himself was heartened by the fact that 14 of the 15 countries – with one notable exception – had hailed those principles.

I think there was remarkable unity expressed on the Council today, and a remarkable...a remarkably unified, also, sense of the window closing. So I think there was not a lot in the Russian presentation today to seize upon, in terms of giving us hope as a way out of this crisis. It seemed as if much of the presentation was about validating the referendum and legitimating annexation. So that of course causes us grave alarm, which is one of the reasons that we have circulated this resolution in the hopes of finding a vehicle for showing the extent of Russia's isolation as it pursues a non-peaceful path.

Reporter: Do you think it's important for the resolution to specifically condemn Russian military aggression? And if so, do you think 14 out of 15 Council members would support that language?

Ambassador Power: I think what's important is that the resolution enshrine key elements that would, in turn, potentially affect the calculation of Russia before innocent lives are lost. Those elements are, many of which you heard today: support and respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence of Ukraine; a recognition that this referendum has not been authorized by Ukraine and that it is not legitimate; and a pledge and a call for the international community not to recognize the results of an illegal referendum of this nature. The function of the referendum* is, again, to change the calculus of people who still have it within their power to choose peace over conflict and to choose dialogue over confrontation. That's the function of the resolution.

Reporter: How do you respond to the argument of the Russian ambassador about the principle of self-determination in the context of the events of the last couple of months that changed the composition of the Ukrainian government, and the fact that there is, you know, cultural and historical connection of the Crimean people to Russia? How do you deal with that principle – which is enshrined in international law – of self-determination?

Ambassador Power: I guess what I'd say is while I appreciated my Russian colleague's lesson and lecture in geography and history, I missed the day in law school where self-determination was defined as Russia-determination, which is in effect what this set of measures, both, again, surrounding – surrounding Ukrainian bases, not allowing Ukrainians in Crimea to move, sending additional forces in, working with some self-anointed Crimean authorities who had no popular support prior to this crisis, and conjuring up a phony and illegitimate process that is in the stark

violation of the Ukrainian constitution, but also by virtue of the coercive means that Russia is using, in stark violation of international law.

Ukraine in the State Department Daily Press Brief

March 13, 2014

QUESTION: Okay. Let's start with Ukraine and the Secretary's phone call to Foreign Minister Lavrov.

MS. PSAKI: Okay. Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: The Russian Foreign Ministry readout of it wasn't particularly specific or enlightening. Can you be more specific and/or enlightening than your Russian colleagues? And I'll – I've got a – I have a follow-up to that.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. So just to dial back a little bit to what this was a follow-up to, on Saturday, following a discussion with Foreign Minister Lavrov, Secretary Kerry posed a list of questions in writing related to the topics that have been discussed over the course of the last couple of days prior to that, that we talked about yesterday. The focus of those questions was whether or not Russia is prepared to discuss a de-escalation of the crisis by taking specific steps to create the time and space for diplomacy and create an environment for negotiations. In addition, the questions focused on whether Russia was willing to engage with a contact group that would take steps like facilitating direct discussions, coordinating economic support, and the disarming of irregulars. So that was how we got to today.

So we received a response from the Russians last night to these questions. The Secretary spoke with Foreign Minister Lavrov this morning as a follow-up to the receipt of those answers. The answers largely were stated positions that we heard or the Secretary heard from Foreign Minister Lavrov in Paris and Rome during their discussions last week. Secretary Kerry, during their call this morning, made clear that any further escalatory steps will make the window for diplomacy more difficult. He also reiterated his willingness to continue to engage with Foreign Minister Lavrov, including this week, but that the environment has to be right and the goal must be to protect the immunity^[1] and sovereignty of Ukraine. And we didn't see that, obviously, in the responses that we received back.

He also raised concerns about reports of what we're seeing on the ground and stated that it is unacceptable that Russian forces and irregulars continue to take matters into their own hands.

And finally, he conveyed that, as we often do, there is an off-ramp here. We respect Russian interests, and as we have said all along, we respect the fact that Russia has interests particularly in Crimea, but those interests in no way justify military intervention or the use of force.

They ended the call by agreeing to continue to engage and talk in the coming days.

QUESTION: Let me just see if we can put a fine point on this. You did not see anything, either in the responses that you received last night or in the Secretary's call with Lavrov today, that would indicate the Russians are prepared to do or willing to do to take de-escalatory steps. Is that correct?

MS. PSAKI: Well, they have not taken de-escalatory steps. However, I would say it's not as black and white in that, in our view. They're continuing to engage, and part of this is a back-and-forth about a forum for the contact group, where, how, who, and a discussion of that, and as well as steps we think need to be taken or need to be discussed that we haven't seen yet.

QUESTION: All right. Did they discuss at all this idea coming out of the Crimean parliament today that instead of joining Russia they might just declare independence and become their own country? Was that raised? And whether it was or not, does the U.S. believe – does the Administration believe that that is something that is kind of a middle way or a path that could represent some kind of de-escalation?

MS. PSAKI: Well, the way that it was talked about on the call, from all of the information I have available, is that the Secretary reiterated our belief that the referendum wouldn't be –

wouldn't abide by the Ukrainian constitution, which you've heard us say many times publicly. I'm not aware that that particular piece was discussed. But our view remains that any discussion about the future of Crimea needs to be – needs to take place with the new Government of Ukraine at the table, engaged in it, participating in that conversation.

QUESTION: So you do not believe that pro-Russia people in – or a pro-Russian parliament have the constitutional right to declare – unilaterally declare independence?

MS. PSAKI: My understanding is that would not be in line with the Ukrainian constitution.

QUESTION: Okay. But the Russian argument is that, well, you declared independence from Great Britain and that was unilateral.

MS. PSAKI: Whoa, we're dialing back quite a few years here.

QUESTION: Well, that's – they've actually made this case. So anyway, you don't agree with it?

MS. PSAKI: We don't.

QUESTION: And you would think that – and so either the referendum or a declaration of independence is escalatory and not good, in your view?

MS. PSAKI: From everything I know about the declaration of independence, it still does not abide by the Ukrainian constitution.

QUESTION: Okay.

QUESTION: Change topics?

QUESTION: Can I just ask on the –

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Go ahead.

QUESTION: You said that during the call Foreign Minister Lavrov largely restated the positions you've already heard.

MS. PSAKI: Well, I was referring also to the answers that we received back to the questions that were posed. And so the call this morning was a discussion about that as well as the path forward, of course.

QUESTION: So on the issue of the contact group, which perhaps is maybe one of the paths forward on this off-ramp you keep mentioning –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – was there any discussion from Foreign Minister Lavrov that Moscow might be prepared to now join in with some kind of contact group?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I'm not going to speak on their behalf on what they are or aren't willing to do. But obviously, the contact group and a forum for the international community engaging, for Russia and the Ukrainian Government talking, is a primary part of what we're talking about here. So certainly, that's a part of what's being addressed and the principles and the follow-up questions, and as well as the conversation this morning.

QUESTION: But it would suggest if they're largely restating their position that they didn't actually go down that road; they did not say yes, we will join in now.

MS. PSAKI: Well, we have not set up a meeting. You would know if we had. But that conversation is ongoing, and I expect they'll be talking again soon. I don't have a scheduled call yet, but I expect they'll be closely engaged, I should say.

QUESTION: Was the Secretary disappointed by the tenor of the conversation? Was the hope that there might be more positive steps made forward?

MS. PSAKI: Well, the Secretary is an optimist. He also is a realist when it comes to cases like this. And certainly, he understands that there is a long, historic connection. We understand – and as he reiterated on the phone call – Russia's connection to Crimea, their interests in Crimea. But his goal here is to continue to take steps forward each and every day, and he'll remain committed to that in the coming days.

QUESTION: Jen, when you say that any further escalation of what Russia is doing would make diplomacy difficult, are you – is this some kind of pointed at – that you would be ready to move to fully-fledged sanctions? And what do you mean by "that would make diplomacy difficult"?

MS. PSAKI: Well, we always reserve – on sanctions, that implementation process is ongoing in

terms of a discussion of targeting. We also remain – the way that the executive order was written gives us flexibility to expand the targeting of sanctions if we so choose. So that is always an option we have in our back pocket.

In terms of what I meant by – or what he meant, I should say, by the window closing, what he means is the international community is committed and engaged to this. We want to have a diplomatic process and discussion with the Russians and the Ukrainians. But the longer this goes and the more escalatory steps that are taken, the more challenging it becomes. And he was simply stating, I think, something that we all know is true.

QUESTION: Okay.

QUESTION: Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Or – Ukraine. Go ahead, Elise. Then we'll go to you.

QUESTION: Yeah, I want to know about these questions. And I understand that it's about whether Russia is willing to engage and willing to take –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Why are they posed in the answer of questions? Why are these not posed in the realm of this is what Russia needs to do to avoid sanctions or to further – stop this from further escalating? Why is it posed as a question if this is Russia's international responsibility?

MS. PSAKI: Well, the truth is we're sharing more about what happens behind the scenes. You all know this. You've all reported on these and many other issues for many decades. But typically, we don't go into this level of detail. So there are a range of tools that you can use to try to see if there's common ground. We have a responsibility – the Secretary feels we have a responsibility to pursue that, to engage in the diplomatic process. And we felt that would be a productive way to see if we can reach common ground.

QUESTION: Jen –

QUESTION: I still don't understand, though. I mean, usually these are put forward in a set – I understand like in a set of ideas or a proposal or a plan, but I very rarely hear it posed as a series of questions to ask Russia whether it's willing to play nice with Ukraine or do any of those things.

MS. PSAKI: Well, that's not – I think, again, I wouldn't over-focus on the questions or even the principles that we talked about yesterday. Those are part of a diplomatic effort that includes many calls the President has made, the Secretary has made, his engagement with Foreign Minister Lavrov, meetings in person. This is simply a mechanism for discussing what we know the core issues are here. The questions addressed what the core issues are, and also those were the same core issues addressed in the principles that were exchanged just two days earlier. So it's just a mechanism for discussion.

QUESTION: So –

QUESTION: Don't –

QUESTION: Go ahead.

QUESTION: Don't you think that the Russians are buying time through the – these discussions while they are tightening their control on Crimea?

MS. PSAKI: Well I think, again, obviously, we would love to have this resolved yesterday, of course. But we have a responsibility to engage diplomatically and see if we can come to a conclusion here that's satisfactory to all of the parties. We're not dealing in a fantasy world here; we're dealing with the reality of a challenging foreign policy situation, and that's why the Secretary is so engaged in it diplomatically.

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

QUESTION: Yeah, but, Jen, you just said –

MS. PSAKI: We'll go to you next, Said.

QUESTION: – earlier – sorry, this is just based on one of your – you said that any further escalation, provocation, whatever, would make the window for diplomacy more difficult.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: On – three days ago on March 8th, a senior official on a background readout of a

Kerry-Lavrov call said, "At the same time, he," Kerry, "made clear that continued military escalation and provocation in Crimea or elsewhere in Ukraine, along with steps to annex Crimea to Russia would close any available space for diplomacy, and he urged utmost restraint." Are you softening – is the language softening from "would close," meaning it's all over, to "make the window of diplomacy" –

MS. PSAKI: Well, I don't think either put a specific timeline on it, nor do we have a timeline.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: We do feel we have a responsibility to engage diplomatically here, so we're not closing the window. Obviously, we keep talking about this day by day, week by week, and circumstances change. So I can't predict, not that you're asking me to, where we will be in a week. I don't know. But the point he was making is we need to move this forward now, because right now the international community is engaged, the Ukrainian Government is engaged.

QUESTION: Right, but the –

QUESTION: How can you just be suddenly closed for diplomacy, though? I mean, unless you're going to go to war, which obviously you're not –

MS. PSAKI: I didn't suggest it was closed.

QUESTION: Well, this – apparently, this official said that it would, as Matt was saying, saying that this would close the space for diplomacy. But how can – I mean, I understand that it makes diplomacy more difficult, but how could it ever really close the door to diplomacy if diplomacy is the only solution?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I mean, I think the words I used today were "make it more difficult," and those were the words the Secretary used on the phone this morning.

QUESTION: Right, but the – in the – the readout of the call on the 8th suggested that the closure was more like a slam and not a gradual lowering of the window. So I just want to make sure you're not intending to back down, or you're not intending to ease the pressure on the Russians over this.

MS. PSAKI: I'm not intending. I think it was a turn of phrase in both cases.

QUESTION: All right. Okay, fair enough.

QUESTION: Can I –

QUESTION: Well, I have one more on this.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: But I mean – so what is – I know you're saying you don't have a timeline, but what is the kind of trigger for more sanctions or more punitive measures? Is it that if this referendum goes ahead on Sunday? Is that –

MS. PSAKI: We look at a range of issues – certainly whether there's military escalation on the ground, whether Russia is engaging or not engaging, steps that are happening that are unhelpful, including their support for a referendum. There's not one silver item, but of course we look at all of these items and we reserve the right to move forward with additional sanctions if we choose.

QUESTION: What if the – what if you have a – I think we talked a little bit about this yesterday on this, but what if you had a situation like you did in Transnistria where this region voted to join Russia, but Russia said, "No thank you. We like you and want to be – have good relations with you, but we respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Moldova"? If Crimeans vote and Russia does not accept them to join Russia, is that something that Russia would be punished for?

MS. PSAKI: I'm just not going to speculate on that, but that doesn't seem like it's a likely outcome at this point.

QUESTION: Jen, a quick follow up on this point.

MS. PSAKI: Go ahead.

QUESTION: Do you have any reason to believe that the referendum will not take place on Sunday? And what is your plan B once it takes place? What is your plan on Monday?

MS. PSAKI: I can't predict for you what our plan is on Monday. We look at all of the circumstances on the ground. I don't have any information to suggest it's not going to take place on Monday, but that's all the information I have on it.

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

QUESTION: But you agree that all indicators point to it taking place on the 16th, correct?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I believe that's what's been announced –

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: – so I don't have information that conflicts with that.

QUESTION: So – but do you have, like, a plan, an urgent or a contingency plan that begins to take effect on Monday the 17th?

MS. PSAKI: We – Said, every day, we evaluate day by day what steps we have at our disposal, what we can – what steps we can take. We're trying to balance here between pressure and engagement and diplomacy, and so we have discussions and meetings and make decisions about this every single day.

QUESTION: So shortly after the call ended, the Russian Foreign Ministry put out a statement which said that the Russian Foreign Ministry put out a statement which said that the Russian Foreign Ministry deems the Crimean parliament decision absolutely legitimate and Russia will respect the results of the referendum. Do you regard that as escalatory rhetoric?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not going to define, every item, what we feel is or isn't. Obviously, there are things that are fairly –

QUESTION: Well, it's not moving in the right direction, is it?

MS. PSAKI: That is not moving in the right direction, certainly.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: But we're continuing to have this discussion. So I just won't evaluate day by day.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

З заявою Постійного представника Великобританії при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Press briefing: morning 13 March 2014

13 March 2014

The Prime Minister's Spokesperson (PMS) answered questions on ... Ukraine.

Ukraine

Asked whether he expected a deal to be reached on Ukraine, the PMS said that it was right for the UK to continue engagement with the Russian government and to reiterate the importance of de-escalation.

ІТАЛІЯ

Ukraine: Mogherini, every effort at dialogue or Monday EU's inevitable reaction

2014-03-13

Minister for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini took part in a conference call today on the Ukraine crisis, whose other participants included UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, US Secretary of State John Kerry, EU High Representative for Foreign Policy Catherine Ashton, British Foreign Secretary William Hague, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird.

Discussions centred on the delicate steps of the coming days and efforts to maintain dialogue channels open in order to de-escalate the situation and form a contact group, with the participation of Moscow and Kiev, to avoid any further deterioration.

“It was agreed that every possible effort had to be made to see to it that the channel of dialogue opened at the Rome conference leads to results”, asserted Minister Mogherini. “If this does not

happen, also in light of Sunday's referendum in Crimea, in the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on Monday in Brussels we will have to discuss the European Union's inevitable reactions", she continued.

Contacts among the conference call participants will continue over the coming hours and into the weekend, especially in follow-up to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's meeting in London with US Secretary of State Kerry.

КАНАДА

PM announces support for economic stabilization and development In Ukraine

Ottawa, Ontario–13 March 2014

Introduction

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced additional support to help Ukraine restore economic, social and political stability during this important period of transition.

The support will help the new Government of Ukraine stabilize its economy and deliver programming consistent with Canadian development priorities. It will also ensure that the Government of Ukraine receives the expert guidance and advisory support it needs to manage its economic transition, and will help enhance the capacity of the National Bank of Ukraine to undertake banking and financial sector reforms.

The support announced today is one of several measures that our Government is taking in concert with the international community to help address the current crisis in Ukraine. Any financial support provided by Canada will include the necessary safeguards and conditions to ensure accountability and transparency around the use of those funds.

Quick Facts

- New support announced today will be provided in the form of a loan or loan guarantee, conditional on a broader package that includes International Monetary Fund (IMF) support for Ukraine. Additional support will assist the IMF in delivering technical assistance to help Ukraine manage its economic transition and financial sector reforms.
- Canada has already provided funding for urgent medical assistance for Ukrainian activists.
- Canada, along with a number of other member countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), is currently part of a military observer mission that will report on military activities in Ukraine.
- On March 5, 2014, at the request of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Canada froze the assets of members of the Yanukovich regime. As a result, Canada listed 18 people under the Freezing Assets of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (Ukraine).
- In addition, Canada has imposed a travel ban against a number of individuals responsible for threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The ban will prevent these individuals from travelling to Canada.

Quote

"Canada strongly supports the will of the Ukrainian people who have spoken out courageously in calling for a free and democratic Ukraine. Supporting the restoration of economic stability to the country is a priority for both Canada and our international partners. We are proud to announce additional measures today to promote sustainable economic growth, democratic development and good governance during this important transition period."

– *Prime Minister Stephen Harper*

Support for economic stabilization and development initiatives in Ukraine

Ottawa, Ontario–13 March 2014

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting Ukraine during this important period of transition. To this end, on March 13, 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced more than

\$220 million in support to help Ukraine stabilize its economy, and promote economic and social development.

More specifically, support will be allocated as follows:

Loan or Loan Guarantee

Amount:

\$200 million (2014)

Implementing partner:

Government of Ukraine

Canadian financial support to Ukraine will help the new government stabilize its economy and support programming consistent with Canadian development priorities. This loan or loan guarantee will be conditional on the establishment of a broader package of International Monetary Fund (IMF) support for Ukraine.

Technical Assistance to Strengthen Public Financial Management in Ukraine

Amount:

\$20 million (2014)

Implementing partner:

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Canadian financial support for technical assistance in Ukraine will ensure that the Government of Ukraine receives the expert guidance and advisory support it needs to manage its economic transition at this difficult time. Ukraine will be able to draw on IMF technical assistance responsively, helping to stabilize and rebuild the economy. This could include support related to monetary policy, public expenditure management, debt management, balance of payments systems, financial sector supervision, and anti-money laundering reforms.

Strengthening the National Bank of Ukraine

Amount:

\$900,000 (2014-2015)

Implementing partner:

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The project provides technical assistance to enhance the capacity of the National Bank of Ukraine to undertake banking and financial sector reforms. The project is supporting changes that can help ensure greater price stability and lower inflation in Ukraine, and reforms that build the resilience of the Ukrainian economy to adverse external developments – all of which are essential pre-conditions for further small and medium-sized enterprise developments in Ukraine.

ПІМЕЧЧИНА

Policy statement by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on the situation

German Bundestag,

13 March 2014

Mr President, fellow members of this House, ladies and gentlemen, for hundreds of years, relations among European countries were marked by rivalry, changing alliances and recurring rounds of horrendous bloodshed. We remember this most particularly in 2014, this year of anniversaries.

We are remembering the First World War, which broke out 100 years ago. It was the first great catastrophe of the 20th century and was soon followed by a second: the outbreak of the Second World War 75 years ago and the Shoah, that ultimate betrayal of all civilised values. That these horrors have been followed by more than half a century of peace, freedom and prosperity in most parts of Europe can still be considered a miracle. By embracing European integration, Europe has shown that it has learned the lessons from its painful history, initially in western Europe, and after 1989 beyond that. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 10th anniversary of the start of the EU's eastward enlargement. In the 21st century,

European integration continues to represent the great promise of peace, freedom and prosperity. The globalisation of our world – how we live, how we work and how we do business – has long since reached every last corner. Today more than seven billion people live on our planet. They all want to enjoy a measure of prosperity. No-one can confine themselves any longer to only watching out for their own interests. And anyone who does so will harm these interests in the short or long term. That applies to everyone. It applies to Germany and it applies to our neighbours. It even applies to a large and powerful country such as the United States, as well as to China and Russia. We are all, and indeed to an ever greater degree, interconnected – Russia, too.

This interconnection is demonstrated, inter alia, by the annual German-Russian intergovernmental consultations, the Petersburg dialogue, the German-Russian Raw Materials Forum, more than 20 bilateral agreements between Russia and the European Union, the CBSS, our cooperation with Russia in the G8 and the G20, the NATO-Russia Council, negotiating mandates in the Middle East peace process and in the talks with Iran on its nuclear programme and much, much more.

All of this is globalisation in action in the 21st century. It is indicative of our acknowledgement that all of us in Europe and beyond have to join forces to master major challenges we face. It shows that each one of us on our own will achieve less than if we all work together.

It is in this context, fellow members of this House, first in Georgia back in 2008 and now in the heart of Europe, in Ukraine, that we are witnessing a conflict about spheres of influence and territorial claims, such as those we know from the 19th and 20th century but thought we had put behind us.

It is very evident from three items of news from the last 14 days, however, that this is not the case:

27 February. The Crimean Parliament appointed a new government in a closed session during which it voted in favour of a referendum on the region's future status, initially scheduled for 25 May. This was then brought forward to 30 March and finally to 16 March. This is a violation of Ukraine's constitution, which prohibits referendums on secession in individual regions without the consent of the entire state.

1 March. At the request of President Putin, Russia's Council of the Federation approved a contingency decision authorising military intervention in the Crimea in principle, after – it was claimed – Russia had been asked to provide assistance.

11 March. The Crimean Parliament voted in favour of the Crimea's independence from Ukraine, an act intended to get round the ban on secession referendums anchored in the Ukrainian constitution.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is clear that Ukraine's territorial integrity and thus its unity are being blatantly called into question and violated.

At a time of great uncertainty in Ukraine, Russia has not proven to be a partner for stability in its neighbouring country, with which it has close historical, cultural and economic ties. Instead, it is exploiting its weakness. The law of the strong is being pitted against the strength of the law, and one-sided geopolitical interests are being placed ahead of efforts to reach agreement and cooperation.

Actions modelled on those of the 19th and 20th century are thus being carried out in the 21st century. For let me say again: no-one, certainly not the European Union or countries such as the United States or even Russia, none of us can confine ourselves to only looking out for our own interests in the 21st century. Anyone who does so will harm these interests in the short or long term.

Without a doubt, what we are currently witnessing in the heart of Europe is disturbing. I fear we will need much patience to resolve this conflict. However, we can take up this major challenge for Europe with resolve. This is about the territorial integrity of a European neighbour, about respect for the principles of the United Nations, about principles and methods of accommodating conflicting interests in the 21st century.

As a comparison has been drawn with the Kosovo conflict by some during the last few days – and perhaps such a comparison will be made again in the course of this debate – I would like to comment briefly on this. After the international community had stood by more or less helplessly for years watching Milosevic's so-called ethnic cleansing wars in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, after the sanctions and negotiations had failed to have any impact, NATO decided to launch a military intervention without a UN mandate, also because Russia had blocked any resolution by the UN Security Council for such a mandate. I want to state quite clearly that the situation at that time cannot be compared in any way to that in Ukraine today.

But as I have addressed this – in my view – shameful comparison, I would like to state that the following must apply: Russia's actions in Ukraine undoubtedly represent a violation of fundamental principles of international law. They would not be relativised by other international law violations.

They remain a violation of international law in the heart of Europe, and it is vital that we do not simply return to business as usual, and indeed we have not done so.

We have to find ways to defuse this tense and dangerous situation. The conflict cannot be resolved by military means. I say to everyone who is worried and concerned: military action is not an option for us.

Rather, this Government, along with our partners in the European Union and the United States, is pursuing a three-pronged political and economic approach.

First, we are working hard to establish an international observer mission and a contact or coordination group – whatever you want to call it. We are seeking through these means to find a political and diplomatic solution to the crisis.

The aim of the observer mission would be to examine claims and gain an objective picture of the situation throughout Ukraine. The aim of a contact group would be for international partners to help build a channel of communication between Moscow and Kyiv. Such talks would have to address all the issues which led to the current conflict or which could exacerbate it further in future. Naturally, the Crimea's right to autonomy and language issues would also be discussed. However, one thing must be crystal clear: Ukraine's territorial integrity is not negotiable.

In this connection, I want to stress that other states, such as the Republic of Moldova or Georgia, deserve our solidarity in such a situation.

Second, at their meeting on 6 March 2014, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union decided to provide Ukraine with substantial assistance. We welcomed the support programme totalling 11 billion euros put forward by the Commission. It also includes measures by the European promotional banks, the EIB and the EBRD. Swift assistance is now needed. And close coordination with the IMF is essential for EU assistance. An IMF and an EU delegation are already in Kyiv to gain a full picture of the situation in Ukraine and to draw up initial proposals on a possible support and reform programme.

Last week in Brussels, we decided together to sign the political section of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine soon, which – above all – provides key impetus in the sphere of the development of the rule of law. The EU wants to make some of the economic advantages of the comprehensive free trade zone set out in the Agreement available in the short term through unilateral trade facilitations such as a reduction in duties.

In this situation it is, of course, also extremely important to foster contacts between people. We want to move faster on the negotiations on visa facilitations for Ukraine. Similarly, with regard to energy, the EU is prepared to assist Ukraine in strengthening its energy security, for instance by increasing the diversity of energy sources and transport methods and by modernising the system.

However, signals of solidarity from person to person will also be very important, especially in eastern Ukraine. Existing town twinning arrangements – of which there are a great number – and other contacts between civil societies can play a key role in this connection.

I would like to encourage those towns and cities in Germany, but also schools, universities and associations, with partners in Ukraine to step up contact at this particular time and see whether

there is any way to provide practical help.

We are supporting the interim government in Kyiv in its aim to be a government for all Ukrainians. The task is to overcome divides, take the first steps towards economic stabilisation and make free and fair elections in May possible.

Ukraine should continue to be a place in which all citizens can live peacefully together, irrespective of what language they speak – Ukrainian, Russian, Tatar or one of the country's other languages – and what faith they profess.

If the road through this transition is successfully steered, the European offer of a reform partnership can be realised, as set forth in the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free-Trade Agreement. This goal is very closely interwoven with the expectations voiced by the protesters on the Maidan: the strengthening of the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, increased transparency, less corruption and a further dismantling of barriers to trade. This offer of help with modernisation is a Neighbourhood Policy approach, not a geopolitical one. It is not directed against anyone.

I repeat in this context what I said here in the Bundestag on 18 November last year in my policy statement on the EU Eastern Partnership Summit, namely that neither the Eastern Partnership nor the bilateral agreements the EU wants to conclude with its partners are directed against Russia. We must – as I said on that occasion – continue to work to ensure that the Eastern Partnership countries are not faced with a stark either/or choice – either moving closer to the EU or responding to Russia's efforts to forge a closer partnership with them.

Events in recent weeks seem to be blowing this aside. Nevertheless, the correct thing remains not to leave anything untried to continue to pursue this course, for which the EU has tabled concrete proposals.

By the way, Russia too has benefited from the strengthening and modernising of our eastern partners' economies. And so naturally we feel we must discuss with Russia any supposed disadvantages for Ukrainian-Russian trade arising from Ukraine's association with the EU. This includes working together with Russia to find ways to resolve outstanding conflicts in countries which are neighbours to us both.

This would also include talking with Russia about a new economic agreement.

Third, in the event, however, that Russia is not prepared to return to the path of cooperation and law, in the event that Russia remains unprepared to help deescalate the situation, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union decided at their meeting in Brussels last week on three steps that would be taken.

The first step is that we have suspended negotiations with Russia on visa matters as well as on a new agreement on the framework for EU-Russia relations. If negotiations do not start with Russia in the next few days – negotiations which produce results, not negotiations playing for time – the Foreign Ministers of the EU member states will move to the second stage and agree on further measures at their Council meeting this coming Monday, 17 March. These measures will include travel bans, asset freezes and the cancellation of the EU-Russia summit.

Fellow members of this House, I think I speak for all of you in taking this opportunity to thank our Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. I thank him for his tireless efforts in seemingly endless, unfortunately also frustrating, talks, and for his unwavering commitment to our shared resolve to find a way out of the crisis.

It goes without saying that the next regular Council meeting of Heads of State and Government will of course be looking at the latest developments in Ukraine as well as the other points on the long-planned agenda on climate and energy issues.

In the event that Russia further destabilises the situation in Ukraine – we are seeing worrying developments in eastern Ukraine too – the Heads of State and Government decided at their meeting on 6 March on a third round of measures we would be ready to take. These could affect economic cooperation with Russia in many different ways.

To make it absolutely clear: none of us wants these measures to be taken. But we would all be ready and determined to take them if they become unavoidable.

All of us – that is the 28 member states of the European Union in very close coordination with our transatlantic partners and within the G7. Last week we decided in the G7 to suspend our participation in the preparations for the G8 Summit planned for June until the restoration of an atmosphere conducive to sensible talks in the G8 framework.

If Russia continues along its course of the past few weeks, it will not only be a catastrophe for Ukraine. We would not only regard it as a threat as neighbouring states of Russia. It would not only change the relationship of the European Union as a whole with Russia. No, it would, I am absolutely convinced, hugely damage Russia not least of all, both economically and politically. Because, and I cannot stress this often or firmly enough, the clock cannot be turned back. Conflicts of interest at the heart of the Europe of the 21st century can only be successfully resolved if we do not resort to the solutions of the 19th and 20th centuries.

They can be resolved only if we apply the principles and instruments of our age, the 21st century.

Equally, geopolitical strength can only be developed if we use the principles and instruments of our age. This presents so many more opportunities than threats for all of us in Europe and the world, including Russia. This is why the Federal Government takes a three-pronged approach – talks, assistance and sanctions – with Germany taking each new step in the current crisis in close coordination with our partners. I ask for your support in this.

Thank you very much."

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

Appeal to Russia's political reason

Mar 13, 2014

Talks – assistance – sanctions: this three-pronged approach is guiding the actions of Germany and its partners in the crisis shaking the Crimean peninsula. In a government statement on Ukraine, the Chancellor has called for a diplomatic solution to the crisis – in the best interests of Ukraine and the best interests of Europe.

In 2014, the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, it is becoming particularly clear that Europe has learned from the preceding bloody century. European unification, said the Chancellor, is the "great promise of peace, liberty and prosperity". The continent must not now fall back into "the patterns of action of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries".

Against the law of the jungle and "might is right"

With its action in Crimea, Russia is exploiting a phase of uncertainty in Ukraine, declared Angela Merkel in the German Bundestag. The country is openly questioning the territorial integrity of Ukraine. "The law of the jungle, the principle that might is right is taking precedence over the strength of the law, unilateral geopolitical interests are taking precedence over understanding and cooperation."

This violation of international law is unacceptable. The Chancellor urged Russia to backpedal in this conflict. An annexation of Crimea and a destabilisation of eastern Ukraine would not only change the relationship between the EU and the G7 states and Russia. Russia would, in the final analysis, damage itself massively "in both economic and political terms."

For diplomacy and against military action

"This conflict cannot be resolved using military means," noted the Chancellor unequivocally. Military action, she said, is not an option.

The Chancellor, who has talked with numerous partners about the Crimean crisis in the last few days, explained the action of the European Union in the German Bundestag. It focuses on diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully and on assistance for Ukraine. Should Russia refuse to cooperate, sanctions will be imposed on the country.

Russia should approve international mission

The territorial integrity of Ukraine is non-negotiable, said Angela Merkel. This must be the basis of activities for an observer mission and/or a contact or cooperation group. Russia is called on to approve an international mission of this sort. Moldova and Georgia too have the solidarity of the EU.

Parallel to this, extensive assistance is to be launched for Ukraine. This was decided at the extraordinary meeting of EU heads of state or government on 6 March 2014. "Rapid assistance is now called for." Representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the EU are already in Ukraine.

No comparison to Kosovo

Angela Merkel rejected the comparison between the Crimea and the former Serbian province of Kosovo as has sometimes been heard in the ongoing discussion as "shameful". The situation in Kosovo was completely different to the current situation in Ukraine.

Neighbourhood policy, not geopolitics

It has also been decided to sign the political chapters of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine swiftly. Negotiations on visa facilitation are to progress rapidly. "Neighbourhood policy, not geopolitics" is the watchword, reported the Chancellor. This is not directed against anybody, she stressed. The aim is to help the Ukrainian government be a government for all Ukrainians, to bridge divides, and to prepare free and fair elections to be held in May.

Should Russia not return to the path of cooperation, further sanctions will come into effect against the country, reported Angela Merkel. In this case the EU foreign ministers will agree on travel bans and asset freezes at their next meeting on 17 March.

"None of us hope that it will come to these measures," said the Chancellor. "But we are all ready to take them and determined to do so if they become inevitable."

ФРАНЦІЯ

З заявою Постійного представника Франції при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Ukraine – Statements by Laurent Fabius at his joint press conference with his Irish counterpart (March 13, 2014)

Q. – On Ukraine, you mentioned the possibility of a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday. What are the conditions for your going to Moscow with the Defence Minister?

THE MINISTER – Between now and Tuesday, a number of factors can and will come into play. First of all, just before meeting Eamon, I was on the telephone to John Kerry, Ban Ki-moon and other colleagues to take stock of the situation in Ukraine and the contacts there are going to be between today and Sunday. The American Secretary of State is going to meet Sergei Lavrov. I myself speak regularly to all the protagonists in this serious matter.

And then there's the referendum planned for Sunday in Crimea, which is entirely contrary to international law – we must be clear – and where people aren't being given a choice: it's a choice between "yes" and "yes". When you look at the propaganda being conducted, you can see clearly why the international authorities, like ourselves, have already said the result of the ballot is null and void. So we'd like the referendum not to be held, but at the same time we're well aware the wheels are turning.

We'll be meeting on Monday – we have a Foreign Affairs Council – and we'll see what decisions we take: there are a number of sanctions on the table, with a whole series of elements that may affect people and their assets, the international economic relations we have with the various players, the prospects for the G8, and relations between the European Union and Russia.

And then, as regards Tuesday, in line with what the French President and the Russian President discussed, I'm expected to go to Moscow with my colleague the Defence Minister, but only insofar as it's useful.

France's position, which is also shared by many countries (...) is to be both firm – because you can't deem acceptable an action which defies international law and ultimately overturns borders, with a whole series of possible consequences that are extremely serious – and, at the same time, we want to get back to the path of dialogue in order to achieve de-escalation. It's very difficult, but if France can contribute to this it will, and this would be the purpose of our visit on Tuesday.

Q. – Do you think Mr Putin is taking seriously the sanctions you're currently discussing with your colleagues?

THE MINISTER – We'd like the solution found to respect both Ukrainians' wishes and international law. Ukrainians' wishes will be expressed when Ukrainians can vote freely. So there will have to be a presidential election; the date of 25 May has been proposed. Even so, when my colleague Mr Lavrov says there's no need for a presidential election because it's Mr Yanukovich who is president, you have to be serious: I was sitting opposite Mr Yanukovich in February.

I also want to make it clear that, just as some people – I'm thinking of the Russians in particular – are contesting the validity of Mr Yatsenyuk as Prime Minister, in the discussion I had with my German and Polish colleagues, the opposition representatives and, on the other side, Mr Yanukovich, the latter accepted that the Prime Minister would be Mr Yatsenyuk.

So, today, when people come and tell us that this government, which was elected by the Rada – the Ukrainian assembly – supposedly isn't legitimate...

Our position is to say that it's going to be necessary for the Ukrainians to vote, freely, with international monitoring of course, and the sooner the better.

At the same time, international law must be respected. A country exists – Ukraine –, which is sovereign, and which geographically and historically is close to the European Union and close to Russia.

We mustn't dispute how things are: geography and history exist. So it's only natural for the Russian-speakers to play their full part – this isn't at issue. But the views and votes of all Ukraine's electorate must be respected and a path to peace and development found for Ukraine, which can choose its own future.

I've always considered this choice not to be a matter of "either/or", but that there's a place for both the Russians – who are nearby, who have a historical influence – and, at the same time, for the European Union, since Ukraine happens to be in Europe.

This is the path of reason, and Eamon, I and others are going to try to go down this path and we hope the Russians will understand that, in the end, it's in their interest too. It is in Russia's interest for Ukraine to be in sound economic health – unfortunately, today, it's in very great difficulty –, for it to be a country where the majority and the minorities are respected, and for it to be a country which can evolve in the international concert of nations.

So, firmness and, at the same time, a desire for dialogue.

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

ООН

РБ ООН

Засідання РБ ООН від 13 березня 2014 року

**United Nations S/PV.7134
Security Council**

Sixty-ninth year
7134th meeting
Thursday, 13 March 2014, 3 p.m.
New York
Provisional

President: Mr. Asselborn	(Luxembourg)
Members:	
Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
Australia	Mr. Quinlan
Chad	Mr. Mangaral
Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
France	Mr. Araud
Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini
Lithuania	Mrs. Murmokaitė
Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Ukraine to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine, and request the Protocol Officer to escort him to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: I will focus my briefing on two aspects: recent developments in Ukraine and the work of the United Nations.

It is a reflection of the severity of this crisis and its possible wider ramifications that the Council is meeting to discuss Ukraine today for the second time this week and for the sixth time since 1 March. Serious attention has been accorded to this issue by the Council, in addition to multiple multilateral and bilateral diplomatic efforts, all aimed at seeking a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The frequency of the deliberations, however, is also a reflection of the fact that, as the international community, we have not yet been able to deliver on our obligation – of which the Secretary-General has reminded us so often – to contribute to the de-escalation of tensions in

accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Although it has so far proved elusive, the path towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis is still open. Let us seize it.

I will first speak about the developments in Ukraine. Since my last briefing to the Council (see S/PV.7131), the Secretary-General's concern about the deteriorating situation in Crimea and rising tensions in eastern Ukraine has further deepened. In Crimea, the seizure and blockade of Ukrainian military bases, as well as the majority of the State border service facilities, continue. There have been reports that a military hospital has been taken over by unidentified military personnel. On 11 March, it was reported that the Crimean authorities had closed down the airspace of the peninsula to all commercial flights except those to and from Moscow, citing the need to keep so-called provocateurs away from the peninsula.

We understand that the referendum called by the authorities in Crimea is expected to go ahead on Sunday, 16 March. There are no indications to the contrary.

On 11 March, Crimea's Parliament adopted a "declaration of independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea". On the same day, the Parliament of Ukraine, citing specific articles of the country's Constitution, adopted a resolution urging the Parliament of Crimea to "reconsider its decision of 6 March 2014 and bring it in line with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, approved by the Law of Ukraine of 23 December 1998". The resolution further stated that if the parliament of Crimea failed to do so by 12 March 2014, the Parliament of Ukraine would "initiate the issue of early termination of powers of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea".

Turning to United Nations activities, the Secretary-General continues his active efforts to speak with all relevant parties with the aim of seeking a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis. To that end, he will receive Mr. Yatsenyuk later this afternoon.

As I stated on Monday, the scheduled referendum has further complicated an already difficult and volatile situation. In that context, I regret to report to the Council that the local authorities have denied the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ivan Šimonović, access to Crimea, citing their lack of readiness to receive his visit and an inability to provide security.

Upon his departure from Ukraine, Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović intends to report on the human rights situation throughout the country. For Crimea, he will have to rely on, inter alia, reports from the residents of Crimea, foreign diplomats based in Crimea and international non-governmental organizations, with whom he has been in contact. Given the vast divergences in reports about what is actually happening on the ground in Crimea, we would have much preferred that Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović had been able to collect first-hand accounts himself.

Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović has so far held meetings in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv, including with representatives of local administrations, the Russian minority, non-governmental organizations, including a representative of the Crimean Tatars, and other civil society representatives, as well as with ombudspersons. During his mission, he has also continued to discuss options with the authorities for practical human rights measures that could be taken to strengthen human rights protection and contribute to de-escalation.

The human rights monitoring mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is set to become operational in Ukraine by this coming Monday. In the light of the unpredictable situation, which could affect human rights, the Secretary-General is considering asking Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović to extend his mission.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the Secretary-General has called for a peaceful resolution that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The Secretary-General continues to advocate for a resolution of the crisis in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. He appeals to all parties to avoid hasty actions or provocative rhetoric and to engage in direct and constructive dialogue in order to forge a peaceful way forward. He also continues to remind all parties that democratic values and international human rights norms must be upheld for all the people of Ukraine, including minorities. As part of the United Nations efforts, we also continue to closely coordinate our activities with key players and relevant regional organizations,

including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In the highly charged atmosphere in Ukraine, exacerbated by a lack of trust and fear, the potential for intentional or unintentional escalation or miscalculations is real. We underscore that all sides must avoid unilateral actions that could further raise tensions and make de-escalation more difficult. It is high time for constructive engagement. Instability in Ukraine is in no one's interests and will have dire consequences for the region and the world.

The Secretary-General, under the auspices of his good offices, is the Council's partner in supporting and facilitating a peaceful resolution through dialogue. We are convinced that with genuine and concerted efforts by the international community, we can together pull Ukraine back from the brink.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

Mr. Yatsenyuk (Ukraine): It is a great honour for me to address the primary body that is responsible for peace, stability and security in the world. As far as I know, this is the sixth extraordinary meeting of the Security Council. The Council is well aware of what is happening on the ground but let me additionally report on the most recent developments in Ukraine. My country has faced military aggression by a neighbouring country that is a permanent member of the Security Council. There is no reason for that aggression; there are no grounds for it. It is absolutely and entirely unacceptable in the twenty-first century to resolve any kind of conflict with tanks, artillery and boots on the ground.

The Russian Federation has violated a number of bilateral and multilateral treaties that were signed between Ukraine and Russia. We strongly believe that Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that "all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations" is not questioned by anyone. We still believe that we have a chance to resolve this conflict in a peaceful manner, and we commend and praise the Ukrainian military that have refrained from the use of any force.

We would like to be very clear and say that the military presence has been clearly identified. This is a Russian military presence, with Russian number plates on its vehicles. We urge the Russian Federation to pull back its military forces deployed in Crimea to their barracks and to start real talks and negotiations in order to tackle this conflict.

This is not an internal conflict. This conflict goes beyond the borders of Ukraine. Let me recall that in 1994, Ukraine abandoned its nuclear weapons. We gave up one of the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons – the third largest in the world – and, under the Budapest Memorandum, the signatories guaranteed the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Ukrainian State. The way our Russian neighbours – and I believe that if we talk real talks with Russia, they could be real partners – acted undermines the entire global security and nuclear non-proliferation programme, as after these actions it would be very difficult to convince anyone in the world not to have nuclear weapons.

I would like to reiterate again that the Ukrainian Government is absolutely open. We want to have talks, we do not want to have any kind of military aggression.

I shall now address the Russian Federation. (*spoke in Russian*)

We are looking for an answer to the question of whether Russians want war. As the Prime Minister of Ukraine, which for decades had warm and friendly relations with Russia, I am convinced that Russians do not want war, and I hope that the Russian Government and the Russian President will heed the wishes of their people and return to the negotiating table to engage in dialogue and solve this conflict.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Luxembourg.

I thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his briefing. I welcome His Excellency Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine, to the Council and thank him for his statement. His speech was very moving.

The situation in Ukraine is serious, in particular in Crimea. We cannot remain indifferent given the crisis the country is undergoing. Despite increasing tensions, we would like to believe that there is still time to avoid the worst – the annexation of Crimea by force. We hope that this public meeting of the Security Council – the body that, under the Charter of the United Nations, has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and international security – will help to strengthen the efforts of the entire international community in favour of a peaceful settlement of the crisis in your country.

Luxembourg is deeply concerned by the crisis. During my trip to Kyiv on Monday as part of a working visit with my colleagues, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Belgium and the Netherlands, I came to a personal realization of the courage and resilience the Ukrainian people have shown over recent weeks. I also had the opportunity to observe the restraint and composure of Ukraine at a time when it is being faced with the violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity in Crimea.

The decision taken on 1 March by the Council of the Russian Federation to authorize the use of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine and the actions taken on the ground over the past two weeks constitute flagrant violations of international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. They go against the commitments to Ukraine undertaken by Russia under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and under the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine, signed in 1997.

The main reason given by Russia for to justify its actions, that is to say threats against the rights of Russian speakers and Russian communities in Crimea, has been proved to be baseless, as noted recently the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We regret that it was not possible for the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Human Rights to visit Crimea to corroborate that claim of the OSCE.

The holding on 16 March of a referendum on the status of Crimea is in both form and substance in violation of the Constitution of Ukraine. We call on Russia to cease all actions of support to that referendum. The great and powerful Russian Federation has no need to either encourage or to take advantage of this charade of a referendum, whose ballot papers do not even offer the option of voting against. If the referendum is held anyway, the international community will in no way recognize its outcome.

We are no longer in the era of Yalta or the time of divvying up the European continent. It must be possible to find a peaceful way out of this crisis that takes the interests of all parties concerned – including, of course, those of Russia – into account. The destabilization of Ukraine serves the interests of no one in the long term. We recognize Russia's historical ties with Ukraine, including in the economic and cultural areas. We welcome the spirit of openness of the Prime Minister of Ukraine and his readiness to engage in negotiations – yet further reason for Russia to take the outstretched hand of Ukraine to establish a direct dialogue to defuse the crisis.

A lasting political solution to the Ukrainian crisis will also require inclusive political dialogue within Ukraine itself. Such dialogue must include all democratic political forces and all regions. It must reflect the diversity of Ukrainian society, the aspirations of all Ukrainians and the need to respect the rights of all Ukrainians. We support the efforts of the Government and the Parliament of Ukraine to promote such dialogue, which could, in our view, lead inter alia to a strengthening of the federal character of the Ukrainian State. But it is up to the Ukrainians alone to decide their destiny. Ukraine belongs only to Ukrainians.

As I said at the outset, I want to believe that it is still possible to avoid the worst and that there is still time to find a peaceful solution in keeping with the principles of our Organization and with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Luxembourg encourages the continuation of intensive diplomatic efforts to establish a multilateral mechanism – a contact group bringing together key stakeholders, including Russia. The mechanism should allow us to initiate a military de-escalation, starting with a withdrawal of Russian forces to their places of permanent deployment. It should also permit the launching of direct dialogue between the

Russian and Ukrainian authorities.

I welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, and encourage them to pursue their mission of good offices. Luxembourg supports the efforts of the OSCE, in close cooperation with the United Nations and other international actors, to deploy a special observer mission, above all in Crimea and other regions of Ukraine, in agreement with the host country. Such a mission would assess the facts and respect for human rights, and promote dialogue on the ground in order to ease tensions and normalize the situation.

In conclusion, let me reiterate once again our call on all parties concerned, in particular Russia, to give priority to dialogue over violence and international law over the law of the strongest. The time has come to step up diplomatic efforts to reach a solution to the Ukrainian crisis that respects Ukraine's political independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity in the interests of peace, stability and prosperity in Europe.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Power (United States of America): This meeting comes at a time when every day we are seeing an ever starker contrast between the conduct of the authorities in Kyiv and the conduct of the authorities in Moscow. Let me consider each in turn.

Ukraine's Government is placing a priority on internal reconciliation, plans for free and fair elections, and political inclusivity. It has proposed the creation of a task force to consider the possibility of enhanced autonomy for Crimea within Ukraine. Ukrainian leaders have made clear the future they wish for their people – a future of pluralism, prosperity and dignity; a future free of corruption and cronyism; a future in which the Ukrainian people do not have to choose between East and West.

The Government of Ukraine has been unwavering in its pledge to honour all of its international agreements, including those covering Russian military bases. Ukraine has also shown remarkable restraint over the past few weeks with respect to the use of its armed forces. As evidenced today by the statement of Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, Ukraine's voice throughout this crisis has been one of reason, support for the rule of law and restraint in the face of provocation. Its Government was voted in nearly unanimously by the Rada and has since enjoyed broad support across the political spectrum, including from former President Yanukovich's former party. The Government also includes representatives from across the country, east and west, north and south.

Ukraine's leadership is properly focused on the needs of its people. Yesterday in Washington, D.C., the Prime Minister met with President Obama and other leaders of my Government, and also with top officials of the International Monetary Fund. The Prime Minister's goal is to stabilize his country's finances, curb corruption, and lay the groundwork for progress under a new Government to be elected peacefully, freely and fairly by all the people of Ukraine on 25 May. These elections, which are just over two months away, will give any citizen who has a different vision for Ukraine the chance to be heard. It will give those who wish to shape Ukraine's future the chance to be elected. Ukraine's efforts to stabilize its economy and the coming elections merit the wholehearted support of every member of the Council and of the broader international community.

In Moscow, we see a different kind of leadership. Russia has pursued a course of military action from the outset. At the very start of the crisis, Russia massed its forces along Ukraine's border for military exercises, while supporting efforts inside Crimea to take control of Ukrainian border posts, surround Ukrainian military facilities, seize control of public facilities, and replace Ukrainian media with Russian stations. President Putin asked for and received authorization from the Federation Council to use military force in Crimea, and today there are reportedly more than 20,000 Russian troops in the region. Although Moscow justified its actions in the name of protecting ethnic Russians, Russian troops have repeatedly obstructed international monitors and mediators and denied them access, even though their task is to ensure that the rights of minorities are not violated. This is not the behaviour of people who believe that they have truth and law on

their side.

The self-anointed Crimean leaders set a referendum with full backing from Russia. That date was to be 25 May. They then reset the date for 16 March, allowing less than two weeks to prepare for and carry out a vote – two weeks on an issue of monumental importance, risking grave destabilizing consequences, in defiance of the Ukrainian Constitution and in defiance of international law. The referendum ballot that will be put to voters contains no option to vote for the status quo. Ballots with nothing checked will reportedly be ruled invalid. As the vote approaches this weekend, the Russian military intervention continues, and we learned this morning of new military operations by Russian troops involving artillery batteries, assault helicopters and at least 10,000 additional soldiers near the Ukrainian border.

The proposed 16 March referendum on the status of Crimea is everything that the scheduled 25 May election is not. If the 25 May election offers an opportunity under the law for all Ukrainians to participate in charting their shared future, Sunday's referendum in Crimea is hastily planned, unjustified and divisive. Ukraine's Constitution requires that any change to its territory be achieved only through a national referendum. Because the Government has not authorized such a measure, the proposed balloting on 16 March would violate Ukraine's sovereignty. Any referendum on Crimea must be conducted within the bounds of Ukrainian law. Accordingly, the United States joins with others in calling for the suspension of that ill-conceived initiative, which cannot be recognized as legitimate, especially when carried out against the backdrop of a foreign military incursion. We also call on the Russian Federation to refrain from further actions in support of this dangerous undertaking.

The only true solution to the current crisis is through diplomacy. My Government strongly supports direct talks between the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine, to be conducted, if necessary, with appropriate help from the international community. Secretary Kerry will meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov tomorrow in the hope of finding a way off this path of confrontation. Given the risk of conflict, none of us can afford to leave any stone unturned.

But Russia has to want a diplomatic solution. The diplomatic path remains both viable and desirable, because the way forward is clear. Russian forces must return to their bases and Russia must honour its agreements with Ukraine. All countries must respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and seek to resolve disputes through peaceful means. Every country must fulfil its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and its commitments under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the Helsinki Final Act. Ukraine and the Russian Federation must abide fully by their bilateral agreements, including the 1997 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership and the 1997 basing agreement.

These steps, each in accordance with prior agreements, each consistent with international law, each in keeping with the best interests of the people of Ukraine, are all that is needed to end this crisis in a way that respects the rights and interests of everyone involved. In accordance with these principles, the United States is proposing a draft resolution for the Council's consideration that would endorse a peaceful solution to the Ukraine crisis based on international law and the Council's mandate to act, when necessary, to ensure global security and peace.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my Government's belief that, to resolve this crisis, what is needed now is for a climate of restraint to replace confrontation, openness to replace obstructionism, and peaceful dialogue to replace coercion. This is the moment to show that laws matter, rules matter, and territorial integrity matters. If we do not come together, if we do not send a clear a signal of our shared commitments, we will live with the consequences in Crimea and well beyond. We will look back on this moment and wish we had come together with a unified voice before the consequences became dire and innocent lives were lost.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I welcome Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to the Security Council today. The United Kingdom stands side by side with the Ukrainian people in this time of crisis.

We commend Mr. Yatsenyuk, his Government and the people and armed forces of Ukraine for

the remarkable restraint they have shown in the face of repeated provocation. Because of their strength of will, there is still a chance for a peaceful diplomatic solution.

Over the past week, we have heard in this Chamber and elsewhere an attempt to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the transitional Government in Ukraine. That is entirely unwarranted. Mr. Yanukovich deserted his office and his people in the midst of a crisis. Rather than work to implement the 21 February agreement, he abandoned his post. He was disowned by his own party and his removal was approved by an overwhelming majority of Members of Parliament.

The transitional Government that replaced him has already taken important steps – steps which uphold the spirit of the 21 February agreement and which lay the foundations for the future of Ukraine. They have restored the 2004 Constitution, they have begun the process of constitutional reform, and they have scheduled elections for 25 May. Those forthcoming elections will enable all Ukrainians to choose their own leaders. International monitors stand ready to ensure that those elections are free and fair. We urge all parties to support that effort.

We all agree that Ukraine needs our support in this time of transition. We all acknowledge that Ukraine has a pressing need for reform, for improvements to its political culture, for political stability and inclusiveness, and for an end to corruption. We all support the call for investigations into the violence of the past three months, we all back fresh elections under international observation, and we all agree on the importance of protecting minority rights. Those points of agreement could form a basis around which we can coalesce to find a way forward.

But in order to move away from confrontation, the Russian Federation needs to accept that the cause of current instability in Ukraine lies not in Kyiv or in Donetsk. It comes from the actions of the Russian Federation in the Crimean peninsula where, against the express wishes of the Ukrainian Government, Russian military forces have taken control of a large part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine. We utterly condemn that blatant violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the flagrant breach of international law.

Russia claims that it is acting to protect its citizens. We have heard claims of Russian speakers and nationals under threat, the Russian language outlawed, rampant anti-Semitism, and hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing Ukraine. All those claims have been shown to be unfounded. The only part of Ukraine where minorities are under threat is in Russian-occupied Crimea, where Ukrainian forces are besieged in their bases and hundreds of members of the Tatar community are fleeing Crimea in fear, and where, as we heard just now from Mr. Feltman, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Šimonović has been denied access and the opportunity to investigate the disturbing developments taking place in Crimea. But those international observers who have visited Crimea, including Astrid Thors, the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, have found no evidence of any violations or threats to the rights of Russian speakers. They have, however, reported that, as a consequence of Russian actions, tensions between ethnic communities have increased.

We are deeply concerned by the decision of the so-called Crimean Government, installed by an armed putsch accompanied by Russian military intervention, to hold a referendum on 16 March to ascertain whether Crimea should become part of the Russian Federation. We are equally concerned by the legislative steps Russia is taking to facilitate that referendum.

It is absolutely clear that the proposed referendum would violate the Ukrainian Constitution. Article 73 sets out that any alteration to the territory of Ukraine must be resolved by an all-Ukrainian referendum. This is manifestly not an all-Ukrainian referendum. Moreover, a free and fair referendum cannot possibly be held while Russian troops and Russian-backed militias dominate Crimea, where there is no electoral register, where there are restrictions on press freedom, and where voters will be casting their ballots under the barrel of a gun. Under such conditions, it is clear that any referendum vote in Crimea this weekend would be farcical. Worse, it would reopen ethnic divisions and risk a serious escalation in tension. Such a referendum will not be recognized by the international community.

A window of opportunity remains to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis. The window is narrow, but it exists. But finding that solution requires Russia to take a number of important

steps. It must de-escalate. Its forces must return to their bases in Crimea and to the force level stipulated in the Black Sea Fleet basing arrangements. International monitors must be allowed into Crimea. Their presence will ensure that the rights of people belonging to minorities are fully respected by all parties. Russia should distance itself from the proposed referendum, clearly indicate that it will not seek to use the result as a pretext for annexation, and publicly reaffirm its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. And Russia must agree to proposals for a dialogue with the Ukrainian Government, either directly or through a meaningful international diplomatic process.

The Council is meeting today in the gravest possible circumstances. A referendum is set to take place on Sunday that is illegal under Ukrainian law and the consequences of which will clearly be inflammatory – a destabilization with serious implications for the United Nations Charter and international norms.

There is no need for this. What we have just heard from Prime Minister Yatsenyuk confirms what many of us have been repeatedly emphasizing in the Council – that there is a clear willingness on the part of the Ukrainian Government to address Russia's stated concerns through peaceful dialogue, discussion and negotiation. When there is a readiness for dialogue, it makes no sense – indeed, it would be dangerous and irresponsible – for Russia to take unilateral actions or collude with unilateral actions of the Crimean authorities. The United Kingdom urges Russia to refrain from such unilateral actions and to distance itself from the referendum set to take place on Sunday.

And the United Kingdom urges the Security Council to make clear that Ukraine's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity must be respected and that any attempt to modify Ukraine's borders through unlawful means will not be tolerated.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I welcome the dignified statement we just heard from the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

If the current crisis were not so serious, we could wax ironic about the recent statements made by Russian diplomats to explain the apparent movement towards the annexation of Crimea. That irony is based on two facts. First, Russia constantly refers to the agreement of 21 February, negotiated by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Poland and France, which it refused to endorse when it was signed. It has become a very belated supporter of that agreement after Yanukovich's shameful flight.

Secondly – and here the irony borders on the surreal – Russia refers to the opinion of the International Court of Justice, which ruled that the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo was not illegal. Russia never recognized that opinion and always disputed Kosovo's independence. We therefore await with interest the logical conclusion of that unexpected conversion – Russia's recognition of Kosovo.

It is interesting to note that, in its opinion, the International Court of Justice established two conditions. One was the contested character of the territory, which led to the existence of a unique legal order, resolution 1244 (1999), and the second was the non-use of force. Obviously, those conditions have not been met in Crimea, the status of which was in no way contested either by Moscow or the local assembly, and where the Russian occupation allows one faction, which received 4 per cent of the votes in the local elections, to organize a mock referendum in the shadow of Russian bayonets. As French Minister for Foreign Affairs Fabius said this morning, "in Crimea Sunday the choice will be between 'yes' and 'yes'".

But for Russia it is not a question of law, coherence or logic; it is a question of using anything and everything to justify the unjustifiable – the blatant and cynical violation of the Charter of the United Nations, whose foundation is respect for the territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of its Members.

Everything is therefore in place for the annexation of Crimea by Russia regardless of legal wrangling that will fool no one. The Western media sees in this matter the triumph of the Russian chess player who will have checkmated the international community. I play chess pretty badly, but I see here above all the immaturity of a player who cannot help but try to take the rook

and ends up losing the game. Russia will gain Crimea and lose its credibility. What will happen to the credibility of Russian diplomacy when it tries to return to its foundations – respect for the territorial integrity of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States – a diplomacy that encouraged and recognized the secession in Georgia and annexed a region of Ukraine? It will be met with nothing but sarcasm and a shrug.

What will happen to the credibility of Russian diplomacy in the former Soviet space? Are we not aware that certain independent States had been conquered by the Russian Empire before Crimea? Are we not aware that there are Russian and Russian-speaking minorities everywhere across that space? All that Russia will find there is distrust and anxiety. What will happen to the credibility of Russia in Ukraine? How can we imagine a reconciliation between the spoiler and the dispossessed? How can we understand the creation of a new Alsace-Lorraine a century after 1914? No one is asking Ukraine to choose between East and West. Russia has succeeded in doing so by leaving Ukraine no choice in the matter.

Finally, what will become of the rapprochement between the European Union and Russia when Russia tramples upon the values that led to the creation of the European Union and the resolve to break the cycle of invasions, occupations and demands? The European Union can only see its error in believing that its interlocutor shared the same objective. Russia will lose the game, but no one will emerge unscathed, because naked force will have imposed its logic. The fragile fabric of international law – the only guarantee and only barrier that small States have against the return of war – will have been torn.

In this moment of confusion, it is right for the Security Council to reaffirm the principles upon which the United Nations is founded. France therefore supports the draft resolution presented by the United States of America and calls for its being put to a vote before the holding of the referendum.

It is not too late. Let all of us, members and non-members of the Security Council alike, launch a final appeal to Russia. We understand the passions and concerns. We want to respond to them, but through respect for law and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. That is the message that for a week now all our Heads of State and Government have been sending to the highest levels in Moscow.

Simple solutions are available; the principles are well known. I even cited them here a week ago: the return of the Russian forces to their barracks, the deployment of international observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to ensure the safety of the civilian population, the establishment of a Government of national unity in Kyiv, the swift holding of elections under international monitoring (see S/PV.7125). Let us negotiate the terms.

Time is running out. If the illegal referendum is held on Sunday, if Russia responds unfavourably, as it has announced it would, we will be forced to let Russia suffer all the political and economic consequences. I say “forced” because we do not want to follow a path leading backwards. I say “forced” because we will not have a choice in the face of such a major violation of international law on our continent.

Russia should resist the nationalist giddiness that has engulfed it and which is always ill advised. Russia should forget 1914 and understand that we are in 2014. It should return to the principles that it heralded for so long and that it tramples today. It should listen to what the entire international community is telling it. If it does, a solution is possible – a solution that respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its independence and ensures the rights of all communities of Ukraine. It should not lose the chess game for the sake of the limited and fleeting pleasure of taking a rook. That would not be a worthy display of the talent of Russian chess players, who are among the best in the world.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): It is increasingly alarming that the crisis and the turn of events in Ukraine poses a threat to the security of the entire region and continues to affect the daily lives of innocent people. While there are a number of diplomatic engagements under way in approaching the crisis, we believe it is important to take into account substantive issues that gave rise to the conflict in the first place thus addressing the grievances of all concerned parties.

We reiterate our support for the solidarity of all Ukrainian communities and maintain our call for an inclusive political Ukrainian-led dialogue that recognizes the diversity of the Ukrainian people and emphasizes the protection of minorities and the Russian community. As the Security Council and the international community, we have a duty to find an end to the confrontation and allow the Ukrainian people to determine their own destiny and their own future in a genuine and impartial manner. We thank the United Nations leadership for its active role and steps taken thus far in an effort to de-escalate the situation as described to us by the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, whom I wish to thank personally.

We remain concerned that intensified rhetoric on all fronts is undermining efforts to find common ground. We reiterate our call on all parties to exercise extreme restraint during this volatile time and to resolve the issue through existing bilateral and multilateral arguments. We the international community must uphold our commitment to the principles of peace and security and do our part to ensure that there is no further deterioration of the crisis, which includes a call for all parties involved to commit to finding a peaceful solution.

Rwanda stands for respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations. In our view, it is time to focus our priority on achieving sustainable peace through genuine talks geared towards de-escalation of the situation and to encourage all concerned parties to deploy sustained efforts to defuse fear, hatred and other negative emotions that will worsen the situation.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to welcome the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and thank him for his clear briefing to the Security Council. The implications of the events in Ukraine, particularly in the region of Crimea, have reached a critical turning point, which requires concerted efforts to defuse the crisis, give precedence to the language of reason, and begin a direct dialogue between the parties concerned in order to end the crisis and prevent any further escalation. That will require urgent action on the part of the international community through the United Nations and other international organizations, and bilateral contacts aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive to enabling the parties to overcome the causes of the crisis and find a mechanism for the dialogue and negotiation necessary to achieve solutions that will preserve the interests of all parties concerned. In this regard, Jordan welcomes the efforts of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the proposals of its presidency, including on the establishment of an international contact mechanism to facilitate dialogue among the parties and the despatch of a fact-finding mission to Ukraine to gather information and evaluate the security situation. We also support efforts to implement these proposals as soon as possible, given the current situation.

Jordan stresses the need to respect Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political, and not to interference in its internal affairs. We also call for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means. Jordan stresses the territorial integrity of Ukraine, all regions of which, including Crimea, are subject to Ukrainian sovereignty, in accordance with the provisions of international law and the relevant international conventions, including the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. We also affirm that the international community should help launch a political process in Ukraine that will include all parties and communities, including minorities, with a view to restoring peace, security and the rule of law in Ukraine. Such a political process must ensure the rights of all citizens of Ukraine and pave the way for presidential elections in May.

Diffusing the crisis in Ukraine – particularly the region of Crimea – and ensuring respect for its Constitution and territorial integrity will prevent a further escalation of the crisis and avert threats to international peace and security. Jordan calls on all the parties concerned to create an environment conducive to resolving the crisis, refrain from escalation, and keep all options open for solutions aimed at preserving the rights and interests of all and restoring peace and security in the region.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): We thank the Luxembourg presidency for holding today's public meeting on the crisis in Ukraine and appreciate your presence here, Mr. Minister. We are grateful for the participation of and statement by Prime Minister Yatsenyuk of Ukraine, and for the briefing by Under-Secretary-General Feltman. We express our firm support for the political process towards elections on 25 May, under the Government of Ukraine.

The Republic of Korea remains deeply concerned over the continuing escalation of tensions in Ukraine. We are particularly troubled by the decision of the Crimean Parliament to hold a referendum and its unilateral declaration of independence. Those actions will only further exacerbate the already tense situation. Without a doubt, it is vital that the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine be fully respected. Ukrainians should retain full power over their country's affairs, without intervention or influence by outside forces. In that vein, we urge the full observance of all relevant international and bilateral agreements, particularly the Charter of the United Nations and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

The unabated military activities in Crimea, which are violating the sovereignty of Ukraine, are also a source of grave concern. Any military presence or activity not authorized by the Ukrainian Government and in breach of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine must immediately cease. We welcome the ongoing diplomatic efforts of the international community to de-escalate the situation, in particular those of the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We also underscore the importance of bilateral dialogue between Ukraine and Russia.

The Republic of Korea believes that credible international monitoring mechanisms will have a notable calming effect on the ground. In that connection, it is worrying that the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and OSCE personnel have been denied access to the Crimean region. Unhindered access must be ensured for such missions. Any action threatening the safety and security of international personnel must be stopped.

The stability and prosperity of Ukraine are critical not only to peace in Europe, but also far beyond. We truly hope that Ukraine will emerge from the crisis as a strong, inclusive and prosperous democracy, led only by the will and aspirations of the Ukrainian people. It is the responsibility of the international community to assist the people of Ukraine in fulfilling that goal.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his briefing. China has been closely following developments in the situation on the ground in Ukraine, which remains highly complex and sensitive as we speak. The situation in Ukraine today is the result of a complex interlinkage among historic factors and circumstances on the ground.

China regrets the recent clashes that took place in the streets of Kyiv. China also condemns acts of extremism and violence. Efforts to address Ukrainian affairs should take the lawful rights and interests of all ethnic communities in Ukraine into consideration with a view to restoring the normal social order as soon as possible. On several public occasions, China has clearly stated its principled position on the question of Ukraine. It continues to address the issue objectively and impartially. It is China's long-standing position not to interfere in the internal affairs of other States and to respect their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

My country is of the view that all parties must now remain calm, exercise restraint, prevent a further escalation of the situation, and adhere to the approach of resolving the crisis through political and diplomatic channels. It is our hope that all parties concerned will promote communication and coordination, put the interests of all ethnic communities in Ukraine above everything else, keep their eyes on the big picture of maintaining regional peace and stability, and settling their differences by appropriate means.

China supports the constructive efforts and good offices of the international community in de-escalating the situation in Ukraine. We are open to all proposals and plans that would help to ease tensions in the country. We remain committed to playing a constructive role in achieving a political settlement of the question of Ukraine.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I want to welcome Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and to thank him for his briefing. I also want to thank Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman for providing an update on the situation in Ukraine.

In a world that is already deeply embroiled in turmoil in most regions, the current crisis in Ukraine is one crisis too many. The world can ill afford it. Nigeria remains unequivocal in highlighting the precarious and delicate nature of the situation in Ukraine. The imperative for a cautious approach by all parties to avoid exacerbation of the crisis could not be more urgent. That consideration is even more pertinent today as developments on the ground indicate that so little has changed since our last meeting in the Council on this issue (see S/PV.7131).

The fundamental principle at stake in the crisis is respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations. We want to remind all concerned to uphold the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly as concerns the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In order to engender a peaceful settlement of the current impasse, there must be understanding. There must be mutual trust. There must be flexibility and a willingness between the parties to engage in constructive and peaceful dialogue. We want to urge the parties not to slam the door on dialogue, which represents a priceless opportunity for all issues to be discussed towards a peaceful and mutually acceptable resolution of the crisis.

The foundations for reconciliation are not far-fetched. We can find them in previous agreements. The Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, adopted in 1990 and renewed in 1997, are valued and credible instruments that provide a ready framework for resolving the crisis in Ukraine, and we call on all parties to abide by their commitments and obligations under those instruments. We also note that interlocutors have a vital role to play in ameliorating the situation.

While the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ivan Šimonović, is making progress in discussing human rights-related issues with stakeholders across Ukraine, we regret that he has had to cancel his visit to Crimea, which is at the core of the current crisis. We hope that he will be able to undertake that visit in the near future, because it is critical.

We would also like to see access granted to observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in order to allow them to undertake an objective assessment of the situation on the ground. That, we believe, would foster a deeper understanding of the crisis. We want to reiterate our position that the referendum planned for Crimea contravenes the Constitution of Ukraine and is therefore illegitimate. For that reason, we call on the authorities of Crimea to postpone, and indeed cancel, the impending referendum. To go ahead with it would add insult to injury. Our ardent desire is to see a united, peaceful and democratic Ukraine where all citizens and communities can live side by side in peace, security and harmony.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile expresses its profound concern about the very serious consequences of the announced referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the holding of which could lead to an escalation of the crisis in Ukraine. It is critical for the Council to contribute to ensuring the maximum stability and the moderation of the parties, and to use all appropriate means to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

We thank you, Sir, for organizing this timely meeting, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, for his participation in this meeting. We also thank Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, for his briefing, and welcome the work of the Secretary-General and the mission of good offices in Ukraine of Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Robert Serry, and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović.

Chile reiterates the necessity to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. It is essential that all parties involved in the situation refrain from actions that are in breach of the Charter of the United Nations or international treaties and pacts to which Ukraine is a party. In that context, it is essential to respect the rule of law at both the international and national levels. At the national level, that must be reflected in full respect for the Ukrainian Constitution, which is particularly relevant and important today on the eve of the referendum to

be convened by the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Chile appeals to the authorities of Ukraine to pursue their efforts to establish an inclusive national political process. At the international level, the parties must respect and adhere not only to the Charter of the United Nations, but also to the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership and the Budapest Memorandum. All the mechanisms provided for in those instruments should be used to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. We call for compliance with the Budapest Memorandum, which obliges the parties to respect the independence, sovereignty and current borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat or use of force to undermine the territorial integrity or political independence of the country. By the same token, we recall paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which states: "Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

We regret that Mr. Šimonović was not allowed to enter Crimea and that the observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are still being prevented from doing so. It is essential for Mr. Šimonović and the observers to have secure access to Crimea. We urge that the efforts of the United Nations and the OSCE to find a peaceful solution to the crisis not be hindered. Chile also reiterates its call on the Russian Federation and Ukraine to make use of existing mechanisms of dialogue to find that solution. We need to give time to diplomacy.

In conclusion, I reaffirm that it is for the people of Ukraine, in all its diversity and unity, to decide its own destiny in the framework of an inclusive process that guarantees the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and respect for the rights of minorities.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank you, Mr. President, for your presence in presiding over this open debate at such a critical time. I thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his briefing and welcome Prime Minister Yatsenyuk of Ukraine at this very difficult and decisive time for him and his country. It is important that the Council has heard directly from him today. We should commend him and the Ukrainian authorities for their restraint and courage in the face of continued provocation and for their efforts to design a new and inclusive future for Ukraine.

We welcome all international efforts to find solutions to the crisis. We commend the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for their efforts. We support yesterday's statement by the Group of Seven, which spoke with one voice in urging Russia to join them and work together through diplomatic processes to resolve the crisis. We also commend the efforts of the United States to find a solution through engagement with both Russia and Ukraine. Russia must similarly show itself ready to engage seriously and constructively with the Ukrainian leaders to resolve the crisis.

In our numerous meetings over the past two weeks, the messages from Council members have been stark. Ukraine's territorial integrity must be respected. Russia must take immediate, deliberate and definitive steps to de-escalate the situation, including, critically, ordering Russian troops to return to their bases, and must allow independent monitors access to Crimea to verify the situation on the ground. Russia and Ukraine must engage with each other in direct dialogue at senior levels.

However, we have seen no sign of change in Russian actions. Instead, we have seen further Russian efforts to consolidate its control of Ukrainian territory in Crimea. It has extended its control of air, sea and land access to the peninsula. The closure of Crimea's airspace to non-Russian commercial air traffic has now further severed connections between Crimea and the rest of Ukraine. Russian forces have seized Ukrainian military and Government facilities and laid siege to others, including the naval headquarters. They have reportedly laid mines in a number of locations. Such actions cannot be justified by a perceived threat to Russian assets or nationals. OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Ms. Thors found no evidence of violations or threats to the rights of Russian speakers in Crimea during her visit.

Media freedom has also been severely suppressed in a clear attempt to prevent coverage of what is occurring. Attacks on journalists have intensified. Despite the repeated calls for independent

verification of the situation on the ground, unarmed OSCE monitors have also been denied access to Crimea three times now. United Nations representatives have been similarly unable to conduct visits. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Ukraine, Robert Serry, was threatened by armed men and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Šimonović has been denied entry to Crimea. Reports of intimidation of Crimean Tatars make it all the more crucial that human rights assessment missions proceed as planned.

The Crimean Parliament's announcement of a referendum, to be held on Sunday to decide whether Crimea should secede from Ukraine, was a dangerous further escalation of tensions and deeply destabilizing; so, too, were statements by Russian parliamentarians that Russia would formally accept the results of that referendum. Any such referendum would contravene article 73 of the Ukrainian Constitution, which provides that any alteration of the sovereign territorial boundaries of Ukraine can be decided only through an all-Ukraine national referendum. It would be inconsistent with chapter X of the Constitution, which sets out the constitutional role of Crimea within Ukraine. That has been underlined by both Ukraine's Acting President Turchynov and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk.

The Ukrainian Parliament also demanded on 11 March that the referendum be cancelled. The Crimean Parliament itself has no standing on that issue. We also note that the referendum will be conducted at a time when Russian forces are in control of Crimea.

For all those reasons, the results of the proposed referendum will be inherently illegitimate and will not be accepted by the international community. We welcome the United States proposal that the Council adopt a draft resolution that would make this clear. We would support adopting such a draft resolution before the Sunday referendum.

However, it is not too late to resolve the crisis peacefully, but the window for that is rapidly closing. The international community has shown its willingness to support efforts to resolve the crisis, the continuation of which will not only have terrible consequences for the people of Ukraine but will also reverberate far beyond that. The Ukrainian Parliament has asked the United Nations for its support and we should remain ready to assist. International principles that are at the core of international relations not only in Europe but globally, and that matter fundamentally to each and every sovereign State, are at stake.

For diplomacy to have a chance, Russia needs to actively de-escalate the situation. It must pull back its forces to their bases and decrease their numbers to agreed levels. It must also allow international observers access to Crimea to verify the situation on the ground and accept the proposed OSCE monitoring mission. It must also demonstrate its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including by desisting from any support for the referendum proposed this Sunday. And it must engage in direct dialogue with Ukraine, as Ukraine has repeatedly requested, either bilaterally or through diplomatic mechanisms, such as the contact group that has been proposed. The international community has offered its assistance and dialogue. It is now imperative that Russia work with international partners to ensure that the crisis is resolved peacefully.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I shall respond directly to the direct question put to me by Mr. Yatsenyuk. The Russians do not want war, and I am sure that the Ukrainians do not want it either. Furthermore – and this is something that I want to underscore in particular – we see no grounds for viewing the situation in such terms. We do not want any further exacerbation of the situation.

Russia did not provoke the spiral of destabilizing violence that has determined developments in Ukraine in recent months. Some colleagues who spoke here before me today painted an almost idyllic picture of the situation in Ukraine. They claimed that if it had not been for Russia, everyone in Ukraine would live long and happy lives. Some others simply tried to claim a role in the crisis. For them, it seems to be a game; for us, it is an issue of lives and the fundamental norms of international law. If we are to understand how to normalize the situation, we need to objectively analyse the root causes of the current crisis.

We have already said in this Chamber that there were no objective grounds for Ukraine's

deteriorating situation over the past few months. All that was at stake was the need for President Yanukovich and his Government to adopt a decision on whether it was beneficial to Ukraine to sign the association agreement with the European Union that was proposed by Brussels. The reaction to Kyiv's decision to refrain from that for now while still maintaining a so-called European future outlook was totally unfounded. The escalation was provoked both by forces in Ukraine and by Western sympathizers with that country.

Having refused to engage in trilateral negotiations on the economic problems of Ukraine, under the European Union-Ukraine-Russia format, Brussels and, for some reason, Washington, D.C., started to demand, almost in the form of an ultimatum, that Kyiv sign the association agreement, which had significant economic consequences for Ukraine. They appealed not only to the Government but also to the street.

Of course, the people of Ukraine have the right to peaceful political protests, but why turn the Maidan into a militarized camp? Why send columns of militants, well-trained and well-equipped by someone, into the centre of Kyiv? Why provoke the representatives of law-enforcement agencies by pelting them with paving stones and Molotov cocktails, using bulldozers as weapons of street terror? Are the seizure of administrative buildings and political party headquarters, and the killing and torturing of those arrested there – for example, in the torture chambers set up in the trade unions building – consistent with democracy? The acts of violence that took place in Kyiv clearly require careful international investigation.

The picture painted by Kyiv and Western propaganda completely contradicts those reports, which show that the same people fired on positions held by the law-enforcement agencies and by the demonstrators. There were also recent reports that they also fired on the headquarters of the so-called Commandant of the Maidan who now leads Ukraine's National Security Council.

Why have the representatives of Western countries fuelled the enmity and unrest? Why did the Speaker of the Parliament of Lithuania, in a speech to the Maidan, call for continued anti-governmental actions? Why were there Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level civil servants and representatives of some Western States among the demonstrators? Why was there such blatant interference in the domestic affairs of a State, in blatant disregard for its sovereignty?

However the activities of Victor Yanukovich during that period may be judged, no one in this Chamber can claim that he did not seek a possible compromise with the opposition. The post of Prime Minister was offered to Mr. Yatsenyuk. Why did he not seize that opportunity to prevent the country from falling into economic disaster? Why not seize not only the opportunity provided by offers from the European Union and the United States, but also by readiness of the Russian Federation to help with credits and lower fuel prices to begin to stabilize the economic situation?

Finally, why not seize the opportunity of the agreement of 21 February to end the stand-off, re-establish the normal political process, and cement the economic and political integrity of the country? Could it be that the forces seeking power and authority were not interested in democracy, but in a dictatorship, when they threatened all those who differed with them, including members of the Rada? As a result, the legitimate legal President was overthrown and forced to leave Kyiv under the threat of physical violence.

Those present in this Chamber know full well that the violent overthrow of an authority is illegal. Such actions have been repeatedly condemned, including in documents adopted by the Security Council. Instead of the Government of national unity provided for pursuant to the agreement of 21 February, a Government of the victors was established in Kyiv, as acknowledged by Mr. Yatsenyuk. A number of key positions, including that of Minister of Defence, went to representatives of the radical nationalist Freedom Party. In the resolution adopted in December 2012, the European Parliament characterized the views of that party as anti-Russian, anti-Semitic, xenophobic, and counter to the fundamental values of the European Union. It called on all pro-democracy parties in the Rada not to form coalitions with that party. Where are those European values now? Are the new authorities in Ukraine sticking to them?

The real bulwark of those new forces is an even more radical organization, the so-called Right Sector, whose leader has made his presidential ambitions clear. The radicals have not laid down their weapons, as required by the agreement of 21 February. Moreover, they are restocking their arsenals with weapons seized from military depots. The new authorities have done nothing to organize a national dialogue to promote genuine constitutional reform, as stipulated in the agreement of 21 February.

They have done their best, however, to antagonize the eastern and south-eastern regions of Ukraine. First of all, they got rid of a law on languages that afforded official status to the Russian language, and then they eliminated the Russian-language versions of Government websites. Instead of engaging in dialogue, Kyiv sends its political commissars to the eastern region. Those who dissent are arrested, as happened with a popular governor of the Donetsk region who stated that he intended to participate in the presidential elections, and with former Governor Dobkin of the Kharkiv oblast. The fract is, the Kyiv authorities themselves are splitting their country in two.

A great deal has been said in the Council today, often with considerable passion, with regard to the situation in Crimea and the decision of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic to hold a referendum on to decide on annexation by Russia or on broader autonomous status within Ukraine. Some dispute the legitimacy of such a referendum. However, what is unacceptable is the manipulation of individual principles and norms of international law, arbitrarily wresting them from the general context not only of international law itself, but in particular of concrete political situations and historical specificities.

In each particular case, one must seek the right balance between the principles of territorial integrity and the right to self-determination. It is clear that the achievement of the right to self-determination in the form of separation from an existing State is an extraordinary measure. However, in the case of Crimea, it obviously arose as a result of the legal vacuum created by the violent coup against the legitimate Government carried out by nationalist radicals in Kyiv, as well as by their direct threats to impose their order throughout the territory of Ukraine.

A number of countries that have spoken out against the expression of the popular will of the Crimean people rushed to recognize the independence of Kosovo, which was declared without a referendum by a simple decision of Parliament, despite the protests of Belgrade and the fact that the declaration of independence took place against the backdrop of an illegal military operation by NATO countries in a situation in which the majority of the Serbian population was forced to leave the province. I shall not even speaking about resolution 1244 (1999), which retains all its validity in establishing an international protectorate over Kosovo.

It is well known that the concept of a referendum is not new. Referendums have been or will be held in Puerto Rico, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, Catalonia and Scotland. The legal and historical contexts, as well as the results of all those votes, are all quite different, but the fact remains that the inhabitants of those territories were or will be given the opportunity to express their free will. Why should the people of Crimea be an exception?

There are other interesting precedents. The Comoros declared their independence from France in 1975 and were accepted as a State Member of the United Nations consisting of four islands. However, in February 1976 France organized for the residents of one of those islands – Mayotte island – a referendum to determine whether they wanted to remain part of France or to be part of the new State of the Comoros. By a small majority, they voted against independence from France. The Head of State of the Comoros tried to keep that from happening. In February 1976, he requested that an emergency meeting of the Security Council be convened (see S/PV.1888). France's actions were characterized as naked aggression and an encroachment on the national unity of the Comorian State. He noted that under French law in force before the independence of the Comoros islands, the island of Mayotte was an inalienable part of Comorian territory. He also underscored the fact that the Comoros was accepted as a State Member at the United Nations as a State composed of four islands. It was all to no avail. Draft resolution S/11967 in support of the Comorian position was vetoed by France.

The Declaration of Independence of the United States refers to a situation in which it had become necessary for a people to dissolve the political ties connecting it to another people. Let us see how the people of Crimea view that position during the upcoming referendum.

Finally, some who have spoken in the Council referred to the actions of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. We consider those references to be incorrect. The Russian Black Sea Fleet is in no way interfering in the situation leading up to the referendum, which has been proclaimed and organized by the Crimeans themselves.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): As Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman noted in his statement, this is the sixth time since 1 March that we have met to address the crisis caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine. In the meantime, the Heads of State of the European Union have condemned the unprovoked violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation, and called on the later to immediately withdraw its armed forces to their areas of permanent stationing. That call was reinforced by a similar statement issued by the leaders of the Group of Seven and the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) to stress the illegality of the referendum in Crimea and call on all actors to refrain from supporting unconstitutional activities.

As a leader and a patriot, ex-President Yanukovich should have put Ukraine first and done everything within his power to normalize the situation. He should have led the implementation of the oft-cited 21 February agreement, which he signed very unwillingly and which Russia refused to co-sign, as eloquently pointed out by the French Ambassador. Instead, Yanukovich abandoned his country and fled, exposing it to partition and annexation. Under those circumstances, the Ukrainian Rada, whose legitimacy have never and cannot be challenged, appointed a new Prime Minister in accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution and by the overwhelming majority of votes, enabling the formation of a unity Government that is fully representative of the ethnic and geographical diversity of the Ukrainian population, as was also pointed out by our colleague from the United States.

We commend the incredible restraint and moral fortitude of the Ukrainian Government, its people and its military in the face of the continuous escalation of provocations and a massive propaganda onslaught. It speaks volumes on the Prime Minister's readiness and commitment to pursuing the peaceful resolution of the current crisis.

Never has a referendum been set up so hurriedly, and even that very short time frame was cut still shorter in a clear violation of Ukraine's Constitution and also the constitution of Crimea, which unambiguously states that Crimea shall be an integral part of Ukraine. The original inhabitants of Ukraine, Crimean Tatars, have spoken loudly against the referendum and Crimea's secession and have reaffirmed their desire to see their homeland as part of Ukraine. But their voices will not count, nor will the voices of many other ethnic groups inhabiting Crimea, including Ukrainians themselves, because the referendum is specifically designed to endorse secession. There is simply no other option but to say yes to partition.

Notably, in the meantime, Russia is fast-tracking legislation that will facilitate the annexation of Crimea – or any piece of any other country, for that matter. One can only imagine the shudders that is sending across the entire region, whose memories of the recent Soviet occupation and invasions are still very much alive.

As a signatory of the 1991 Almaty Declaration, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the 1997 Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the Status of Conditions of the Presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the Territory of Ukraine and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation has repeatedly recognized Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Furthermore, as a signatory of the Budapest Memorandum, it has undertaken the obligation to protect and guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty, inviolability and territorial integrity, in exchange – as has been pointed out – for Ukraine's relinquishing its nuclear-weapons arsenal.

The blatant breach of bilateral obligations and international law by Russia is undermining the

very foundation of international law as well as regional and international peace and security. We strongly call on all States to make it clear that they will not recognize the referendum and its outcome.

Nothing that has been said, including by the Russian Ambassador – nothing on Earth – warrants or justifies Russia's actions and those of the pro-Russian forces in Crimea. Whatever concerns – legitimate concerns – may be raised about the conditions of ethno-linguistic minorities, they could have and still can be readily addressed through existing regional and international instruments. The Council of Europe has plenty of mechanisms to that effect and is ready to engage; so do the OSCE and the United Nations. Let those organizations do their job, just as they have done with success on multiple other occasions, especially since Ukraine has repeatedly invited monitors and representatives of those organizations and declared its openness to be visited, assessed, inspected and monitored. Ukraine has nothing to hide.

But its opponents do. Why else would certain forces try to do everything in their power to isolate Crimea before the illegal referendum? The pro-Russian forces propped up by the ever-growing Russian military presence on the peninsula have repeatedly denied access to OSCE teams, to Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, who was harassed and denied entry twice. Crimean Ukrainians are attacked and accused of being occupiers in their own country, taunted en masse as fascists and Nazis, simply for no other reason but being Ukrainian.

Crimean airspace is closed to flights, except those from and to Moscow. Waterways are blocked, electricity and supplies to Ukrainian forces cut. Ships are sunk at water entries to the peninsula, trenches dug and, as reported by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, landmines are being laid. Land access is monitored by so-called unidentified Russian-speaking men who are armed to the teeth. Crimea's information space has also been blocked. All Ukrainian information channels and the local Tatar network have been clamped down and replaced by Russian channels transmitting continuous anti-Ukrainian propaganda. Journalists have been threatened, assaulted and kidnapped.

It is in that context of Crimea's isolation, gunpoint tactics by pro-Russian forces and extreme levels of anti-Ukrainian hysteria that the illegal referendum is to take place this coming weekend, paving the way to Crimea's annexation by Russia. The crisis is deeply troubling. Besides violating the underlying principles of international law and of a country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, it also has a highly explosive human dimension. The anti-Ukrainian propaganda and a barrage of lies risk unleashing the most dangerous demons of hatred, with potentially devastating consequences for the region and international security as a whole.

We call on the Russian Federation to stop the warmongering and its dangerous propaganda campaign aimed at its neighbours, and to use whatever little time remains for open dialogue and the participation of international mediation. While it is still possible, we appeal to the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops to their regular locations, accept the primacy of international law and reaffirm its respect for the Charter of the United Nations, engage in direct dialogue with Kyiv without any further delay, revert to existing mechanisms of crisis resolution, and accept the initiatives of the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and whatever other initiatives there are that are aimed at preventing further escalation and launching international monitoring mechanisms.

The solution to the crisis in Ukraine can be based only on the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the country, as well as on strict adherence to international law and international standards of behaviour. If this chance is missed, the consequences for the international order are difficult to assess, and the full responsibility for them will be Russia's to bear. The window of opportunity, as our British colleague has referred to it, is still open. It is up to Russia to keep it open, or to shut it in the face of the international community.

Mr. Mangaral (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing. I welcome the transition Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Yatsenyuk, and thank him for the information he has provided.

Chad notes with great concern the continuing escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, despite the repeated calls of the international community, in particular the Security Council, for calm and restraint. We think that it is still possible to take the path of national reconciliation and preservation of the unity of Ukraine through an inclusive process of dialogue between the different components and respecting diversity.

Chad also calls for the respect for territorial integrity, the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. The parties must take the necessary steps to create a climate of dialogue with a view to achieving genuine national reconciliation and respecting human rights, more specifically, the rights of minorities. Chad supports international mediation for a peaceful outcome of the crisis and welcomes the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General towards that end.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation for the commitment with which Luxembourg has served in its presidency of the Security Council, as can be seen in the fact that you, Mr. President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, are presiding over today's meeting. We thank Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman for his briefing and for his call. We value the good offices that the Secretary-General is employing. We acknowledge the various actors that are collaborating to reach a diplomatic solution of this crisis. We welcome the Prime Minister of Ukraine for his participation in today's meeting.

Argentina has been following with concern the situation in Ukraine, particularly since we received the note from the Permanent Representative of that country on 28 February (S/2014/136). The Council and the international community have given the issue intense attention as the situation has become increasingly complex.

The delegation of Argentina reiterates once again that it is essential that we stick to the principles that we undertook to uphold when we became Members of the United Nations. In particular, we must recall our commitment not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States. In light of that, we understand that the action of any State or international organization must preserve due respect for Ukraine's conduct of its internal affairs.

As a Member of the Organization, Argentina considers it essential to highlight the primary duty to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of all States. My country has sustained that principle throughout its history, even prior to the very existence of the United Nations, and will continue to do so unwaveringly.

We have followed with concern the evolution of Ukraine's domestic situation and listened attentively to the statements by the various authorities of that country before this Council. We are concerned about past and present violence and the possibility that it may worsen. We regret that, despite repeated appeals to all parties and key stakeholders to refrain from any action that could contribute to inflammatory rhetoric and to aggravating the situation, particularly unilateral acts on the ground, it has still not been possible to take substantive steps to establish constructive dialogue and good faith with the aim of resolving the current crisis.

It is essential that the international community and the actors in Ukraine themselves facilitate democratic dialogue and contribute to finding peaceful solutions to the current situation. In that regard, the Argentine delegation wishes to emphatically appeal to all Ukrainian parties to refrain from taking positions and decisions that could make the situation worse or establish faits accomplis that hinder dialogue and the search for the necessary compromises that will make a comprehensive solution possible.

We hope that the internal evolution in Ukraine can take democratic paths, as that is the only way to be inclusive. At the same time, we consider it essential to observe strict respect for human rights and humanitarian law. Our own national experience in that regard teaches us that for any community, such commitment is essential to ensuring a future of peace and development with social inclusion and the full operation of democratic institutions. We hope that throughout the process due respect will be maintained for all minorities, whether ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious.

International efforts have been directed towards finding solutions through diplomatic channels. They have crystalized in high-level meetings in Paris and Rome, as well as in various proposals to deploy mediation or observation missions. While those initiatives have not been fruitful, diplomatic efforts for a rapprochement must be redoubled to alleviate tensions on the ground and, at the same time, open space for dialogue to resolve the crisis. The way out of the current crisis is political and must be peaceful and concerted.

The international community must actively contribute through mechanisms that the Ukrainians consider necessary or appropriate to achieve internal peace in the country. It is our hope that the competent regional organizations can constructively contribute in that regard. It is incumbent on all of us to refrain from exacerbating internal dissent and to strictly adhere to the principle of non-interference by military, economic or political means in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

As for the Security Council, we understand that our primary responsibility is to continue making concrete proposals that will contribute to a resolution of the crisis and to appropriate follow-up of the situation with a view to preserving international peace and security, and, where appropriate, to adopt the appropriate measures. Argentina's commitment to those goals can be depended on.

The President (*spoke in French*): Prime Minister Yatsenyuk has requested the floor to make a further statement. I give him the floor.

Mr. Yatsenyuk (Ukraine): Mr. President, let me thank you and the Council members for your unconditional support of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of my country. This is really great, and I will deliver the message to the people of Ukraine that all, except one, supported the independence and territorial integrity of my country. We still believe that we can find a peaceful solution. My Government is committed to executing all international obligations. We adhere to all bilateral and multilateral treaties that Ukraine has signed and ratified.

Crimea was, is and will be an integral part of Ukraine. We will never recognize any kind of makeshift, artificial and falsified so-called referendum. We are ready to hold a nationwide dialogue in order to increase the powers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the Ukrainian Parliament through constitutional means and tools. We will protect and defend every minority in my country. We stick to the principle of the Ukrainian Constitution that says that, except for the Ukrainian language, the only other language indicated in article 10 of the Ukrainian Constitution is the Russian one. We will protect every religion of every one who is a Ukrainian citizen. And we want to be very clear in stating that this Government is ready for an open dialogue.

We extended our hand to Russia, but in return we got the barrel of a gun. But we still believe that Russia is ready to negotiate and to tackle this dramatic conflict – not only in our bilateral relations, but in the whole of Europe – by peaceful means. What we are asking for is the truth. History will judge us. We have a chance to make history. We will do whatever we can in order to preserve peace and stability and in order to save my country.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

ОБСЕ

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna Ihor Prokopchuk on current situation around Ukraine at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, 13 March 2014

14 березня 2014, 16:04

Since 2 March 2014 numerous meetings in different formats have been held in the OSCE in view of the urgency to address the evolving conflict in Ukraine's territory of Crimea that stemmed

from violation by the Russian Federation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine through illegal aggressive actions there of the Russian armed forces. We have witnessed broad international condemnation of the actions of the Russian Federation that violate imperative norms of international law, the Helsinki Final Act, bilateral and multilateral agreements signed between Ukraine and the Russian Federation; actions that undermine the very foundation of European and global peace and security. Numerous efforts have been undertaken on the top political level of world leaders to deescalate the crisis and seek its peaceful resolution with full respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Against this backdrop I regret to inform the Permanent Council that so far no signs of de-escalation have been registered, moreover the situation in and around the Autonomous Republic of Crimea continues to rapidly deteriorate, thus raising tensions even further. We witness continuing support by the Russian Federation of the separatist forces in the Crimea and expansion of its illegal military activity there in breach of agreements between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Moreover, there are disturbing indications of concentration of Russian troops in various areas along the state border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

To dispel security concerns over unusual military activities of the Russian Armed Forces, Ukraine is planning to conduct an observation flight pursuant to the Open Skies Treaty over the adjacent to Ukraine areas of the Russian Federation. In response to relevant Ukrainian request (OS/UA/14/0011/F12/0), the Russian side agreed to receive this observation flight. However, we must note the technical impediments in the payment procedure suggested by the Russian side.

At present 37 Ukrainian military sites in Crimea remain under siege, the servicemen and their families sustain constant enormous pressure and intimidation. Military sites in Dzhankoy, Chornomorske, Bakhchysarai and Simferopol were seized by Russian troops and local separatist forces. In Crimea 47 out of 56 sites and facilities of the State Border Service of Ukraine were either blockaded, seized or stopped functioning due to coercion.

We register continuing reinforcement with armaments and fortification of illegal security checkpoints on the roads connecting the Kherson Region and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in Ukraine. Adjacent to the checkpoints fields have been reportedly mined.

Last week the armed persons at those checkpoints aggressively prevented the group of unarmed military observers from OSCE participating States from visiting Crimea with the aim of dispelling concerns about military activities of the Russian Federation. Yet, the group's observations at the illegal checkpoints "produced significant evidence of equipment consistent with the presence of Russian Federation military personnel", as stated in the interim report.

We are seriously concerned about rapid deterioration of situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the area of exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms since the military invasion of the peninsula and extension of Russia's support to separatist forces. In particular, existing evidence demonstrates serious violations of the rights to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of the media, freedom of movement and the right to life itself. As an example, four local activists were kidnapped in Simferopol on 9 March 2014 and their whereabouts still remains unknown. On 9 March pro-Russian groups attacked and beat people who assembled near the monument of Taras Shevchenko in Sevastopol to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of this famed Ukrainian poet. Over the past few days, the television crews from "1+1", STB, Channel 5, Inter, Hromadske TV, Italian SKY TG 24, print journalists and their foreign counterparts became subject to aggression, threats and attacks. The signals of Ukrainian television channels Inter, Briz, 1+1, 5 channel, 1st National, STB have been cut off in Crimea, the cut-off also effected the signal of the local independent Chernomorskaya TV. They were replaced with Russian channels NTV, 1st channel, Rossiya 24, Rossiya RTR, TNT and Zvezda.

We take note of the concerns in this respect, expressed by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media after visiting the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Yesterday the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Mr. Ivan Šimonović joined the

list of international officials, who were denied access to Crimea. Cited reasons for denial as security concerns testify to serious aggravation of situation on the peninsula.

The situation in Ukraine's territory of the Crimea is rapidly moving in the spiral of lawlessness since its occupation by the Russian troops, unidentified military servicemen under the guise of "local self-defence forces". The Verkhovna Rada of Crimea continues, surrounded by armed unidentified military men, to rubberstamp illegitimate decisions which violate the Constitution and national legislation of Ukraine, which violate the legislative procedures and exceed the authority of this body. One of the latest illegitimate acts was declaring "Crimean independence". Pursuant to its persistent calls to the Russian Federation to stop support of the separatist forces in Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely protested to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in connection with its statement of 11 March 2014, which appeared to legitimise the so-called "declaration on independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol". The Russian Federation also asserts that OSCE was invited to observe the so-called "referendum". The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry pointed out at the cynicism of the situation when invitation to the OSCE to visit the sovereign territory of Ukraine was conveyed by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE. The Ukrainian side is seriously concerned over the media policy by Russian TV channels, disseminating deceitful information on Ukraine and labeling Ukrainian people as "neo-Nazi", "fascists" and "extremists". There can be no justification for dangerous falsifications, distortions and policies of inciting hatred between the Ukrainian and the Russian peoples.

On 11 March 2014 the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine requested cable operators to temporarily suspend broadcasts of the Russian television channels Rossiya 24, ORT, RTR Planeta and NTV-Mir until assessment is made on conformity of their programming with the national legislation of Ukraine, which bans incitement of inter-ethnic hatred.

As we are approaching 16 March, I would like to reiterate that the so-called "referendum" in Crimea is illegitimate, violating the Constitution of Ukraine and international law, and thus its consequences will be legally null and void. The decision of the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea on the so-called "referendum" has been suspended by the Acting President of Ukraine.

I would also like to note that Ukraine has sufficient legal framework and instruments to discuss and decide on devolving more power to the Ukrainian regions. Moreover, it is one of the priorities of the new Government of Ukraine. The Prime Minister of Ukraine Mr. Arseniy Yatseniuk has recently reiterated the Government's readiness to engage in comprehensive dialogue on additional rights and competencies of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, but this would not happen at the gunpoint of Russian troops.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairman, by reiterating that Ukraine is committed to finding a diplomatic and peaceful solution to this crisis that would provide for full respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country. We call on the Russian Federation to restore full implementation of its international and bilateral obligations, to pull the Russian troops back to the bases of their permanent stationing and to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities on any issues of interest. I suggest it to my Russian colleague that everything possible needs to be done to preserve close ties and friendship between the peoples of Ukraine and the Russian Federation which is in the long-term interests of our two countries. The purposes of resolution of the conflict will be served by immediate deployment of the OSCE special monitoring mission to Crimea to impartially assess the situation on the ground. I thank all delegations for supporting the draft decision on mandate of this monitoring mission, introduced yesterday by the Swiss Chairmanship, and call on the Russian delegation to join consensus.

**United States Mission to the OSCE Statement on Ukraine
As delivered to the Permanent Council by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
Vienna, March 13, 2014**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The United States has repeatedly denounced the Russian Federation's ongoing violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity—actions that constitute a threat to regional peace and security.

Let me be clear: The planned referendum in Crimea on Sunday and the so-called declaration of independence by the Crimean Supreme Council are in violation of the Ukrainian constitution. Each constitutes a flagrantly illegal act. We stand with G7 leaders and many others around this table, including the Chairmanship, in rejecting both, and echo Chairman-in-Office Burkhalter's formal statement that the referendum scheduled for March 16, 2014, is in contradiction with the Ukrainian Constitution and is illegal. It will have no legal effect. And a referendum held at the barrel of a gun can have no moral effect either. Therefore we stand together with other G-7 leaders and urge the Russian Federation to immediately halt action supporting the referendum, that is in violation with the constitution of Ukraine, and that constitutes a dangerous and unnecessary act of escalation. As Secretary Kerry said, Crimea is part of Ukraine. *Crimea is Ukraine.*

We seek to work with all parties to achieve a diplomatic solution that de-escalates the situation and respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call on Russia to take the opportunity before it to resolve this crisis through direct and immediate dialogue with the Government of Ukraine, to pull Russia's military forces back to their bases and return to their pre-crisis numbers, to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, and to support the urgent deployment of international observers and human rights monitors—including OSCE monitors—who can ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Ukrainians, including those of ethnic Russians, are respected in Ukraine, including in Crimea, where the Russian Federation has raised specific concerns.

The Russian Federation has used a false and illogical narrative to justify their actions in Ukraine. Rather than raise its concerns directly with the Government of Ukraine, or appeal to the UN Security Council or the Council of Europe, or to avail itself of the many tools at its disposal within this organization, Russia chose instead to seize control of Crimea and is now threatening annexation. In so doing, the Russian Federation has violated its obligations under international law and its OSCE commitments to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Ukraine stands at an historic juncture. Following months of predominantly peaceful protests, political turmoil and economic strain, Ukraine has formed a new transitional technical government, which has committed to pursue reforms, both political and economic, that will ensure its long-term peace and stability. It has also committed itself to holding internationally monitored, free and fair elections, and we take this opportunity to again welcome the Ukrainian invitations to ODIHR and the OSCEPA to support this effort for free and fair elections on May 25. The United States stands ready to assist Ukraine and fully back this Organization as it plays a critical role in fostering the stable, rule-governed, democratic, inclusive, and prosperous country that all Ukrainians seek.

The OSCE has clearly heard Ukraine's calls for assistance. This Organization has acted quickly and effectively to deploy a human rights assessment mission. Participating States have sent monitors under Chapter III of the Vienna Document, and we are preparing observers for the May 25 presidential election. Yet, despite the good faith invitation of Ukraine and its efforts to facilitate the work of the OSCE and Vienna Document missions, they have been or are being prevented from accessing the Crimean peninsula and accomplishing their objectives. This interference is unacceptable and erodes the ability of the OSCE to establish facts, report truths, and maintain transparency. We encourage Russia and all parties which have professed concern over the alleged incidents and tensions on the Crimean peninsula to support maximum access of OSCE and Vienna Document observer missions to all of Ukraine in order to provide transparent, unbiased reporting on the human, economic, and security situation in the region.

We reiterate that this Organization must stand ready to support the people of Ukraine. We call on

all participating States to support the proposed special monitoring mission and to join consensus on the draft discussed yesterday urgently. We also urge the Government of Ukraine, in this historic moment of transition and opportunity, to continue to make full use of the OSCE, its institutions and assistance, including by ensuring appropriate coordination with, and timely approval of, projects of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman, three closing comments. First, thank you again for the Chairmanship's efforts to lead as we navigate this crisis. I want to be clear though that, while I deeply appreciate the engagement of the Chairmanship, and I appreciate Ambassador Guldemann's efforts, it's not the job of the Chairmanship to ensure that the OSCE speaks with "one voice." The OSCE has a number of institutions and it is designed to have several voices. So, while it is all to the benefit for the various institutions to be sharing information with each other and certainly to be alerting each other to their efforts, it is not the job of the Chairmanship to enforce that one voice to be articulated.

Second, in the future, when there is a PPIS announcement that has gone out saying that there will be media coverage of all of the speakers, I understand that that can be objected to, but I would ask the Chairmanship to call for a formal objection. Indeed, this organization operates on consensus, but the rest of us have the right to see who is objecting to such a move, and I find it deeply ironic that we booted the media out of the room right before the Representative for Freedom of the Media spoke.

Third point: I had the opportunity to meet with acting Foreign Minister Deshchytzia yesterday in Washington, and I just want to underscore to all around this table that he is a known quantity in this organization, many in this organization have gotten to work with him and have grown to admire him. The Russian refusal to engage diplomatically is hard to understand in any case, but particularly hard to understand in this case. He's well known to our Russian colleagues as well. He is a reasonable and good-hearted actor, and he has underscored again to me his willingness to engage at any time with the Russian Federation. I think that's particularly important. Igor was very kind not to criticize him, given that he's poaching some talent from Igor's team, but he has obviously made a good judgment in his deputy as well. So, I underscore that we should all be ready to work with Foreign Minister Deshchytzia and his team, to help support Ukraine.

Finally, I just want to close by reading a couple of sentences from President Obama after the meeting yesterday with acting Prime Minister Yatsenyuk – and I've circulated the entire text of this through the system but I want to read out this item. He said to Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, "I would ask that you deliver a message on behalf of the American people to all the Ukrainian people, and that is that we admire their courage; we appreciate their aspirations. The interests of the United States are solely in making sure that the people of Ukraine are able to determine their own destiny. That is something that here in the United States we believe in deeply. I know it's something that you believe in deeply as well. And you can rest assured that you will have our strong support as you move forward during these difficult times."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

United States Mission to the OSCE U.S. Reply to Russian Federation Comparison of Crimean Crisis to Kosovo

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer to the Permanent Council, Vienna

March 13, 2014

Sorry Mr. Chair, I was hoping to allow you to conclude, but I really do think this is important, just so that we're clear on the facts of this latest assertion.

President Obama addressed this yesterday in the press conference following the Oval Office meeting with Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, and he said, "I know that we've heard from the Russian Federation that these kinds of decisions are often made in other places, and they've even analogized it to Scotland or other situations of that sort. And in each of those cases they've cited,

decisions were made by a national government through a long, lengthy deliberative process. It's not something that happens in a few days, and not something that happens with an outside army essentially taking over the region."

Kosovo emerged as an independent state after many years of international negotiations through the UN to resolve the crisis. In Crimea, Russia and illegitimate local authorities have rejected multilateral diplomatic efforts to resolve the situation and, instead, continue military actions and fostering separatism.

Kosovo welcomed engagement from international bodies. By contrast, Russian forces and citizen militia groups have threatened and prevented high-level visitors and observer missions from international organizations like the OSCE from monitoring the situation in Crimea.

Kosovo's independence had its roots in the violent, non-consensual breakup of the former Yugoslavia, and the State-sponsored ethnic cleansing that Kosovo endured at the hands of the Milosevic regime. As the world knows, despite Russian assertions, there is no evidence of infringements of minority rights occurring in Crimea or elsewhere in Ukraine, let alone a situation with any similarities to the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred in Kosovo.

I think it's fine for Russia to make arguments about self-determination, etcetera. But I think we all need to remember that this situation is not similar to other situations; the analogies do not hold up to the facts. That doesn't mean the Russian Federation is not entitled to launch legalistic arguments. It just means that we should all remember the facts. This is a referendum that is taking place, essentially, at the barrel of a gun. It won't be legitimate in Crimea, and it wouldn't be legitimate anywhere.

ЄС

European Parliament calls on Russia to withdraw military forces from Ukraine

Plenary Session. Press release – **External relations** – 13-03-2014 – 13:08

Russia must immediately withdraw all its military forces from Ukrainian territory, say MEPs in a resolution passed on Thursday. They condemn its "act of aggression in invading Crimea" as a breach of international law, declare Crimea's plans to hold a referendum on its accession to Russia to be illegal and warn that Russia's actions pose a threat to the security of the EU.

The resolution firmly condemns Russia's "act of aggression in invading Crimea" and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all military forces "present illegally on Ukrainian territory". Russia was in "clear breach" of international law, as set out in the UN Charter, the OSCE Helsinki Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and other conventions, and was "posing a threat to the security of the EU", it says.

Crimean referendum illegal

MEPs denounce the referendum to be held this Sunday in Crimea on its accession to Russia, and the decision of its self-proclaimed authorities to declare independence on 11 March 2014, as "illegitimate and illegal". According to Ukraine's constitution, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea may only hold referendums on local matters and not on modifying Ukraine's internationally-recognised borders, notes the text.

Russian accusations unfounded

The text rejects Russia's stated objective of protecting Crimea's Russian speakers as "completely unfounded", given that they did not suffer "any discrimination whatsoever". It also strongly condemns the "defamation of protesters against Yanukovich's policy as 'fascists' by Russian propaganda".

Protection of minorities

MEPs nonetheless call on the Ukrainian government to protect the rights of national minorities, including Russian-speaking Ukrainians and ask for a new wide-ranging language regime supporting all minority languages. To this end, they welcome decision by Ukraine's acting

President to veto a bill that would have downgraded the right to use minority languages in Ukraine.

EU action

Parliament stresses the need for the EU and its member states to speak to Russia with one voice and support the right of a united Ukraine to determine its future freely.

MEPs salute the EU Council decision of 6 March to suspend visa liberalization and partnership talks with Russia and say that in the event of Russian annexation of Crimea the EU should quickly impose an arms and dual-use technology embargo, restrictions on visas, an asset freeze and measures against Russian companies, particularly in the energy sector, in full compliance with EU law.

While MEPs applaud the EU's decision to provide Ukraine with a €11 billion aid package, sign the political chapters of association agreement and enact immediate customs tariff cuts for EU imports of Ukrainian goods, they also call upon it to speed up visa liberalisation with Ukraine and meanwhile introduce "temporary, very simple, low-cost visa procedures at EU and member state level" for Ukrainian citizens.

Finally, MEPs conclude that parliamentary cooperation between the European Parliament and the Russian State Duma and the Federation Council "cannot be conducted along the lines of 'business as usual'".

Резолюція Європейського Парламенту щодо вторгнення Росії в Україну

13 березня 2014, 16:05

Європейський Парламент,

- беручи до уваги свої попередні резолюції щодо європейської політики сусідства, Східного партнерства (СхП) та щодо України, насамперед, резолюцію від 27 лютого 2014 р. щодо ситуації в Україні,

- беручи до уваги свою резолюцію від 12 грудня 2013 року щодо результатів Вільнюського саміту та майбутнього Східного партнерства, особливо стосовно України,

- беручи до уваги свою резолюцію від 6 лютого 2014 року щодо саміту ЄС – Росія,

- беручи до уваги Висновки надзвичайного засідання Ради у закордонних справах щодо України від 3 березня 2014 року,

- беручи до уваги Заяву Північноатлантичної ради від 4 березня 2014 року,

- беручи до уваги Заяву глав держав або урядів щодо України за результатами надзвичайного засідання Європейської Ради щодо України від 6 березня 2014,

- беручи до уваги статтю 2(4) Статуту Організації Об'єднаних Націй,

- беручи до уваги пункт 110(2) та (4) свого Регламенту,

А. оскільки акт агресії Росії у зв'язку із вторгненням в Крим є порушенням суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України, а також суперечить міжнародному праву та є порушенням зобов'язань Росії як підписанта Будапештського меморандуму про гарантії безпеки Україні, яким вона гарантувала дотримання територіальної цілісності та суверенітету України;

В. оскільки проросійські озброєні особи та російські солдати захопили ключові будівлі в столиці Криму Сімферополі, а також важливі комплекси та стратегічні об'єкти України в Криму, включаючи щонайменше три аеропорти; оскільки більшість українських військових підрозділів на півострові, будучи оточеними, відмовилися здати свою зброю, оскільки з часу початку кризи в Україну була перекинута значна кількість додаткових військ Росії,

С. оскільки аргументи, наведені російським керівництвом для підтримки цієї агресії, є цілковито необґрунтованими та відірваними від реальності на місці, адже в Криму не було абсолютно жодних випадків атак чи залякування ні росіян, ні етнічних російських громадян,

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

Д. оскільки самопроголошена та незаконна влада Криму 6 березня 2014 року прийняла рішення звернутися до Росії із проханням прийняти Крим до складу Російської Федерації та призначила референдум на 16 березня 2014 року щодо виходу Криму зі складу України, таким чином, порушивши конституції як України, так і Криму;

Е. оскільки російський Прем'єр-міністр оприлюднив плани щодо спрощеного застосування процедур з надання російського громадянства російськомовним жителям іноземних держав;

Ф. оскільки 1 березня 2014 року Федеральна Рада Російської Федерації надала дозвіл на розміщення в Україні збройних сил Російської Федерації для захисту інтересів Росії та російськомовного населення в Криму та по всій країні,

Г. оскільки для деескалації ситуації, зниження напруги, попередження виходу кризи з-під контролю та забезпечення мирного результату необхідними є рішучі міжнародні дипломатичні дії на всіх рівнях та переговорний процес; оскільки ЄС має ефективно відреагувати, що дозволить Україні повністю користуватися своїм суверенітетом та територіальною цілісністю без зовнішнього тиску,

Н. оскільки 28 прем'єр-міністрів та глав держав ЄС оприлюднили рішуче застереження щодо наслідків російських дій та прийняли рішення призупинити двосторонні переговори з Росією з візових питань та переговори щодо укладення нової Угоди про партнерство та співробітництво, а також призупинити участь інституцій ЄС у підготовці саміту G8, який має відбутися в Сочі у червні 2014 року;

1. Рішуче засуджує акт агресії Росії у зв'язку із вторгненням в Крим, який є невід'ємною частиною України і визнаний таким Російською Федерацією та міжнародною спільнотою; закликає до негайної деескалації кризи з негайним виведенням всіх збройних сил, які незаконно перебувають на території України та закликає до повного дотримання міжнародного права та існуючих договірних зобов'язань;

2. Нагадує, що такі дії є очевидним порушенням Статуту ООН та Заключного Гельсінського Акту ОБСЄ, Статуту Ради Європи, Будапештського меморандуму про гарантії безпеки 1994 року, двостороннього Договору про дружбу, співробітництво та партнерство 1997 року та Договору про статус та умови перебування Чорноморського флоту на території України 1997 року, а також міжнародні зобов'язання Росії; вважає, що дії, вжиті Росією, становлять загрозу безпеці ЄС, жалкує з приводу рішення Російської Федерації не брати участь у зустрічі з питань безпеки України, яка була скликана підписантами Меморандуму в Парижі 5 березня;

3. Підкреслює той факт, що територіальна цілісність України була гарантована Росією, Сполученими Штатами та Об'єднаним Королівством в Будапештському меморандумі, який був підписаний з Україною, та наголошує, що відповідно до Конституції України Автономна Республіка Крим може організувати референдуми тільки з місцевих питань, а не щодо зміни міжнародно визнаних кордонів України; наголошує, що таким чином референдум щодо входження до складу Російської Федерації буде вважатися нелегітимним та незаконним, як і будь-який інший референдум, який порушує норми Конституції України чи міжнародного права; має аналогічну точку зору щодо рішення нелегітимної та самопроголошеної влади Криму від 11 березня 2014 року щодо проголошення незалежності;

4. Наголошує на необхідності для ЄС та його держав-членів говорити з Росією в один об'єднаний голос та підтримати право єдиної України вільно визначати своє майбутнє; у зв'язку з цим вітає та рішуче підтримує спільну заяву надзвичайного засідання Європейської Ради від 6 березня 2014 року, яка засудила російські акти агресії та підтримала територіальну цілісність, єдність, суверенітет та незалежність України; закликає до тісного трансатлантичного співробітництва у виробленні кроків для розв'язання кризи;

5. Засуджує як такі, що порушують міжнародне право і кодексу поведінки офіційну

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

російську доктрину згідно з якою Кремль наполягає на праві силового втручання у сусідні суверенні держави з метою «захисту» безпеки російських співвітчизників, що там проживають; зазначає, що така доктрина означає односторонню узурпацію позиції найвищого арбітра міжнародного права і була використана як виправдання численних актів політичних, економічних та військових інтервенцій;

6. Нагадує, що під час загальнонаціонального референдуму щодо незалежності, проведеного в Україні в 1991 році, більшість населення Криму проголосувала за підтримку незалежності;

7. Наголошує на своєму переконанні, що започаткування конструктивного діалогу є найкращим шляхом врегулювання будь-якого конфлікту та забезпечення тривалої стабільності в Україні; захоплюється відповідальним, зваженим та стриманим підходом українського Уряду до цієї серйозної кризи, в якій на кону стоїть територіальна цілісність та суверенітет країни; закликає міжнародну спільноту рішуче підтримати та допомогти Україні;

8. Відкидає заявлену Росією мету щодо захисту російськомовного населення Криму як цілковито необґрунтовану, оскільки це населення не зазнавало та не зазнає жодної дискримінації; рішуче відкидає наклеп на протестувальників проти політики Януковича, які зображаються російською пропагандою як фашисти;

9. Закликає до мирного розв'язання нинішньої кризи та повної поваги принципів та зобов'язань в рамках міжнародного права; дотримується думки, що ситуація має бути локалізована і надалі розряджена з метою уникнення військової конфронтації в Криму;

10. Підкреслює першочергове значення міжнародного спостереження та посередництва; закликає інституції та держави-члени ЄС бути готовими застосувати всі можливі дипломатичні та політичні шляхи та невтомно працювати разом з усіма відповідними міжнародними організаціями такими як ООН, ОБСЄ, Рада Європи тощо, щоб забезпечити мирне розв'язання кризи, яке має базуватися на суверенітеті та територіальній цілісності України; у зв'язку з цим закликає розмістити в Криму повноцінну Моніторингову місію ОБСЄ;

11. Вітає ініціативу щодо створення Контактної групи під егідою ОБСЄ, проте висловлює жаль, що 6 березня 2014 року озброєні групи перешкодили в'їзду в Крим місії спостерігачів ОБСЄ; критикує російську та самопроголошену кримську владу через небажання співпрацювати з місією спостерігачів ОБСЄ та небажання надати її членам повноцінний та безпечний доступ до регіону;

12. Засуджує той факт, що Спеціальний представник Генерального секретаря ООН з питань Криму був змушений скоротити свою місію в результаті насильницьких погроз проти нього;

13. Вважає, що окремі аспекти угоди від 21 лютого 2014 року, яка була досягнута за сприяння трьох міністрів закордонних справ від імені ЄС, але порушена Януковичем, який не дотримався її умов не підписавши новий конституційний закон, дотепер могли б сприяти виходу з нинішнього глухого кута; однак, враховує, що ніхто не може вести переговори та/або приймати рішення, які підривають суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України, а також підтверджує основоположне право українського народу вільно визначати майбутнє своєї країни;

14. Відзначає з глибокою стурбованістю звіти про те, що озброєні люди позначають будинки українських татар в Криму в місцях спільного проживання татар та росіян; відзначає, що кримські татари, які в результаті здобуття Україною незалежності повернулися на свою батьківщину після депортації Сталіном, закликають міжнародну спільноту підтримати територіальну цілісність України, а також всеохоплюючу юридичну і політичну угоду щодо відновлення їхніх прав як корінного народу Криму; закликає міжнародну спільноту, Комісію та Раду, Верховного комісара ООН з прав людини та Спеціального представника ЄС з прав людини захистити права цієї та інших національних меншин на Кримському півострові; вимагає проведення повноцінного розслідування

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

випадків залякування єврейського населення та атак, здійснених на єврейські релігійні об'єкти в результаті вторгнення в Крим;

15. Вітає відданість українського Уряду амбітному порядку денному реформ, який включає політичні, економічні та соціальні зміни; у зв'язку з цим вітає рішення Комісії надати Україні коротко- та середньострокову фінансову допомогу і пакет підтримки вартістю 11 млрд. євро, щоб сприяти стабілізації економічної та фінансової ситуації в країні; очікує, що Рада та Комісія разом з МВФ, Світовим Банком, Європейським банком реконструкції та розвитку, Європейським інвестиційним банком та іншими країнами якнайскоріше запропонують довгостроковий пакет значної фінансової допомоги з тим, щоб допомогти Україні справитися з соціально-економічною ситуацією, яка погіршується, а також надати економічну підтримку започаткуванню необхідних глибоких та всеохоплюючих реформ української економіки; нагадує про необхідність організації та координації міжнародної донорської конференції, яка повинна бути скликана Європейською Комісією та проведена якнайскоріше; закликає МВФ утриматися від нав'язування надмірних заходів економії, таких як зменшення субсидій на енергоносії, що надалі погіршать і без того складну соціально-економічну ситуацію в країні;

16. Закликає Європейську Комісію та держави-члени разом з Радою Європи та Венеціанською Комісією поряд з фінансовою підтримкою надати технічну допомогу у проведенні конституційної реформи, зміцненні верховенства права та боротьбі з корупцією в Україні; очікує на позитивний результат на цьому напрямку та наголошує, що Майдан та всі українці сподіваються на радикальні зміни та на запровадження належної системи врядування;

17. Закликає до проведення вільних, чесних, прозорих та загальнонаціональних виборів за спостереження ОБСЄ/БДПЛ та підтверджує готовність сформулювати з цією ж метою власну місію; спонукає українську владу зробити все можливе, щоб забезпечити високу явку виборців на президентських виборах, включаючи східну та південну частини країни; підтверджує заклик до української влади провести парламентські вибори відповідно до рекомендацій Венеціанської Комісії та підтримує запровадження пропорційної виборчої системи, яка могла б сприяти належному відображенню місцевих реалій в межах країни; наголошує на важливості дотримання верховенства права радами та їхніми депутатами, як на національному, так і місцевому рівнях.

18. Закликає Україну не піддаватися тиску щодо перенесення президентських виборів, які призначені на 25 травня 2014 року;

19. Закликає Уряд України, який є представницьким та максимально інклюзивним, мінімізувати ризик поновлення насильства та територіальної фрагментації; рішуче застерігає Росію від дій, які можуть сприяти підвищеній поляризації за етнічними чи мовними ознаками; наголошує на необхідності забезпечити, щоб права людей, які належать до національних меншин, включаючи права російськомовного населення України, були повністю захищені та дотримувалися у відповідності до міжнародних стандартів та у тісній співпраці з ОБСЄ та Радою Європи; підтверджує свій заклик до запровадження нового масштабного мовного режиму на підтримку мов меншин;

20. Вітає рішення в.о. Президента щодо вето закону про мовну політику від 3 липня 2012 року; нагадує, що в будь-якому випадку цей закон не був би застосований до Криму; закликає Верховну Раду зрештою реформувати існуюче законодавство з тим, щоб привести його у відповідність до зобов'язань України згідно з Європейською Хартією регіональних мов чи мов меншин;

21. Вітає готовність 28 глав держав або урядів ЄС якнайшвидше та до президентських виборів 25 травня підписати політичні розділи Угоди про асоціацію та ухвалити односторонні заходи, такі як зниження тарифів для українського експорту в ЄС, які дозволять Україні скористатися перевагами положень Угоди про поглиблену та всеохоплюючу зону вільної торгівлі (ПВЗВТ), як це запропоновано Європейською Комісією 11 березня 2014 року; привертає увагу до факту, що ЄС готовий якнайшвидше

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

підписати всю Угоду про асоціацію/ПВЗВТ щойно Уряд України буде готовий до такого кроку; наполягає на чітких сигналах, які б продемонстрували Росії, що жодне положення Угоди не загрожує і не завдає шкоди майбутнім двостороннім політичним та економічним відносинам між Україною та Росією у дусі співробітництва; наголошує, що відповідно до статті 49 Договору про Європейський Союз Україна – як і будь-яка інша європейська держава – має європейську перспективу та може подавати заявку на набуття членства в Союзі за умови її відданості принципам демократії, дотримання основоположних свобод, прав людини та меншин, а також гарантування верховенства права;

22. Вітає рішення Європейської Ради від 6 березня 2014 року щодо першої хвилі цільових заходів проти Росії, зокрема, призупинення двосторонніх переговорів щодо візових питань та укладення нової угоди, а також рішення держав-членів та інституцій ЄС призупинити їхню участь у саміті G8 в Сочі; однак, застерігає, що у випадку відсутності деескалації чи у разі подальшої ескалації ситуації з анексією Криму, ЄС повинен швидко вжити відповідних заходів, які повинні включати ембарго на постачання озброєння та технологій подвійного призначення, візові обмеження, замороження активів та застосування законодавства проти відмивання грошей стосовно осіб, залучених в процес прийняття рішень щодо вторгнення в Україну, заходи проти російських компаній та їх дочірніх компаній, насамперед, в енергетичному секторі, щоб змусити їх діяти у повній відповідності до законодавства ЄС та зробити висновки щодо існуючих економічних та політичних зв'язків з Росією;

23. Нагадує у цьому зв'язку, що експорт зброї та військових технологій може поставити під загрозу стабільність і мир всього регіону і має бути негайно припинений; глибоко засуджує той факт, що держави-члени ЄС широко експортують озброєння та військові технології в Росію, в т.ч. основні звичайні стратегічні спроможності;

24. Наголошує, що парламентське співробітництво, налагоджене між Європейським Парламентом та російською Державною Думою та Федеральною Радою, не може проводитися так, ніби нічого не відбувається;

25. Вітає рішення Ради про ухвалення санкцій, спрямованих на замороження та повернення незаконно привласнених державних коштів України, що стосуються 18 осіб, включаючи Януковича;

26. Наголошує на важливості безпечного, диверсифікованого та доступного постачання енергоносіїв в Україну: у цьому зв'язку підкреслює стратегічну роль Енергетичного співтовариства, в якому Україна головує протягом 2014 року, та зміцнення стійкості України проти енергетичних загроз, які виходять з Росії; нагадує про необхідність збільшення обсягів сховищ ЄС та забезпечення реверсних поставок газу з держав-членів ЄС до України; вітає пропозицію Комісії модернізувати газотранспортну систему України та надати допомогу в оплаті боргів перед Газпромом; наголошує на гострій необхідності подальшого просування у виробленні спільної політики у сфері енергетичної безпеки з функціональним внутрішнім ринком та диверсифікованим постачанням енергоносіїв та роботи з досягнення повної імплементації Третього енергетичного пакету, що зробить ЄС менш залежним від російських нафти та газу;

27. У зв'язку з цим закликає Комісію підтримати проекти в рамках «Південного коридору», які ефективно диверсифікують постачання енергії, і закликає держави-члени не залучати їхні державні компанії до спільних проектів з російськими компаніями, які підвищують вразливість Європи;

28. Закликає Раду без зволікань уповноважити Комісію прискорити лібералізацію візового режиму з Україною з тим, щоб забезпечити просування на шляху запровадження безвізового режиму, слідуючи прикладу Молдови; у той же час закликає до негайного запровадження на тимчасовій основі дуже спрощених та дешевих візових процедур як на рівні ЄС, так і держав-членів;

29. Твердо переконаний, що події в Україні підкреслюють необхідність для ЄС посилити свої зобов'язання та підтримку європейського вибору та територіальної цілісності

21 РОЗДІЛ. 13 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ЧЕТВЕР

Молдови та Грузії з огляду на їхню підготовку до підписання Угод про асоціацію/ПВЗВТ з ЄС цього року;

30. Доручає своєму Президентові надіслати цю резолюцію Раді, Комісії, урядам держав-членів, а також в.о. Президента, Уряду та Парламенту України, Раді Європи та Президенту, Уряду та Парламенту Російської Федерації.