

**УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ**

**РФ**

**Президент РФ**

**Совещание Президента РФ В.В.Путина с членами Правительства РФ**

19 марта 2014 года, 15:45

Московская область, Ново-Огарёво

**(Выдержки, касающиеся Украины)**

Владимир Путин провёл совещание с членами Правительства.

В ходе совещания обсуждались, в частности, вопросы организации работы транспортного комплекса в Крыму и реформирования системы пенсионного обеспечения в этой республике. Отдельно обсуждался вопрос финансирования высокотехнологичных федеральных медицинских центров.

С основным докладом о реализации плана деятельности Министерства промышленности и торговли на 2013–2018 годы выступил глава Минпромторга Денис Мантуров.

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

Мы сегодня проведём с вами нашу регулярную встречу. Но прежде чем перейдём к основному вопросу, ради которого собрались, а это план деятельности Министерства промышленности и торговли на 2013–2018 годы (мы возвращались к нему несколько раз, и знаю, что Правительство работало над ним довольно тщательно), всё-таки просил бы по ряду актуальных вопросов осветить ситуацию. Первое, об организации работы транспортного комплекса в Республике Крым – Максим Юрьевич, какие есть соображения?

**М.Соколов:** Уважаемый Владимир Владимирович!

В настоящее время транспортное сообщение с Крымом, да и в целом с Украиной обеспечивается всеми видами транспорта без сбоев и ограничений. Минтрансом, подведомственными агентствами, системообразующими транспортными предприятиями установлены контакты и ведётся конструктивный диалог с коллегами из Крыма и Севастополя, с соответствующими транспортными компаниями, работающими там.

Железнодорожные перевозки как в грузовом, так и в пассажирском сообщении с Украиной и транзитом по Украине в Крым идут по графику. Сегодня это семь пар пассажирских поездов. В период пиковой нагрузки мы готовы пропускать по этому маршруту до 29 пар пассажирских поездов. Среднее количество пассажиров в направлении Россия–Крым составляет примерно одну тысячу человек в сутки.

Авиасообщение с Крымом сегодня обеспечивается тремя рейсами из Москвы. Это «Аэрофлот» и компания «Глобус», они перевозят примерно 400–600 человек в сутки в одном направлении. Уже с 29 марта начинает функционировать летнее расписание. Окончательный график ещё не сформирован, но мы уже сегодня имеем подтверждение от авиакомпаний заявок на 14 авиарейсов в сутки.

Физически и фактически управление воздушным движением осуществляется через Симферопольский диспетчерский центр. На сегодня самолёты «Аэрофлота» летят транзитом через территорию Украины без каких-либо ограничений. Конечно же, у нас есть и дополнительные, альтернативные коридоры через Ростов.

Также в полном объёме функционирует переправа через Керченский пролив Кавказ – Крым как в железнодорожном, так и в автомобильно-паромном сообщении. В зависимости от погоды и загрузки судов эта переправа обеспечивает перевозку железнодорожных вагонов порядка 250 штук в сутки, используя примерно 10 рейсов, а автомобильные паромы могут совершать 30–33 рейса в сутки. Также хочу сообщить, что

уже издано постановление, соответствующий правовой документ – распоряжение Правительства Российской Федерации о порядке разработки технико-экономического обоснования по строительству Керченского моста.

Другие грузовые порты Крыма – это Феодосия, Ялта, Севастополь и Евпатория, а также система управления движением судов функционируют в штатном режиме. Для обеспечения интеграции крымской транспортной системы, а также бесперебойного обеспечения перевозок грузов и пассажиров, оптимальной логистики Минтрансом сформировано подразделение единой транспортной дирекции и утверждён подробный план мероприятий.

Мы видим, что существующая транспортная инфраструктура, в первую очередь портовая и аэродромная, имеет определённые резервы. Это позволит уверенно обеспечить необходимый туристический поток в летний сезон.

**В.Путин:** Спасибо.

Объём возможных перевозок в летний сезон может быть увеличен по сравнению с сегодняшним днём?

**М.Соколов:** Объём перевозок может быть увеличен как по воздуху за счёт организации рейсов не только из Москвы, но и из других городов нашей страны. Плюс также мы видим дополнительный резерв в перевозках по морю. Для этого есть необходимая инфраструктура в Анапе, а также соответствующие скоростные суда «Сочи-1» и «Сочи-2» по 350 человек, которые обеспечат необходимый туристический поток всеми видами транспорта.

**В.Путин:** Хорошо, спасибо.

По мосту, Вы сказали, уже принято постановление Правительства? И как должна, по Вашему мнению, развиваться ситуация с этим объектом?

**М.Соколов:** В этом году мы проведём проектно-изыскательские работы в Керченском проливе, там не самые простые геологические и гидрологические условия. К концу года будут разработаны несколько вариантов и выбран оптимальный вариант для дальнейшего проектирования.

Потом будет необходим определённый период для реализации проектных решений, после чего можно будет приступать к строительству. В любом случае мы будем максимально быстро параллельно осуществлять все эти процессы, чтобы выйти на строительство моста в максимально короткие сроки.

**В.Путин:** Нам там нужен и автомобильный, и железнодорожный мост.

**М.Соколов:** Да, Владимир Владимирович, в технико-экономическом обосновании будут предусмотрены, естественно, все варианты, но в любом случае – совмещённый железнодорожный мост, а также будет рассмотрен вариант тоннеля под Керченским проливом.

**В.Путин:** Спасибо.

Максим Анатольевич, пожалуйста, о реформировании системы пенсионного обеспечения в Крыму.

**М.Топилин:** Уважаемый Владимир Владимирович! Уважаемые коллеги!

По данным, которыми мы располагаем, в Крыму и в городе Севастополе общее количество пенсионеров составляет 677 тысяч человек, в том числе 559 тысяч в Крыму и 117 тысяч в Севастополе.

Средний размер пенсий, которые сегодня получают граждане, составляет в Крыму 5570 рублей, а в Севастополе чуть больше – 6200 рублей, то есть это значительно ниже, чем в Российской Федерации, где уровень пенсий составляет более 10 тысяч рублей. Разница где-то в 1,8–1,9 раза.

**В.Путин:** В два раза практически.

**М.Топилин:** Почти в два раза.

На сегодняшний день сохраняется устойчивое финансирование выплаты пенсий, пенсии выплачиваются. По выплатам непосредственно – 60 процентов обеспечены; мартовские

выплаты – наличие финансирования на 80 процентов имеется (по 19-е число). По сегодняшнее число соответствующие средства есть, которые поступали через прежнюю систему.

Сейчас специалистами подготовлены все необходимые выплата документы в целях бесперебойного обеспечения финансирования и в марте, и в предстоящие месяцы. Пока с учетом того, что порядка 50 процентов (приблизительно половина на половину) получали пенсии через банк и через почту, отработана технология через почтовые отделения. Граждане об этом информируются.

Списки на март, на оставшуюся часть (это порядка 20 процентов выплат, которые останутся), сформированы, и счета почтой в банке открыты. Пенсионный фонд сегодня-завтра откроет соответствующие счета, то есть бесперебойная выплата будет обеспечена.

В дальнейшем у нас возникнет ситуация, при которой мы предполагаем осуществить конвертацию пенсий в российское законодательство. Это потребует применения специального законодательства, над которым мы сейчас работаем. Если работать по нынешнему законодательству без изъятий, то возникнет ситуация, при которой мы не сможем учесть никаких страховых взносов для жителей Республики Крым и Севастополя за период с 2002 по 2014 год, поэтому требуется изменение законодательства в этой части и особое законодательство.

Мы исходим из того, что должны выйти в течение переходного периода на уровень пенсий, который будет соответствовать российскому уровню, то есть, как Вы сказали, увеличение в переходный период в два раза.

**В.Путин:** Послушайте, Максим Анатольевич, это мало жителей интересует – техническая и чисто юридическая сторона дела. Все граждане России (а к этому дело идёт, процедуры юридически будут в скором времени завершены) должны быть поставлены в одинаковые условия. Как вы это сделаете, это ваше дело. Вместе с депутатами Госдумы продумайте и сделайте это. И не затягивайте, сделайте как можно быстрее.

**М.Топилин:** Обязательно.

**В.Путин:** Хорошо.

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### **Телефонный разговор Президента РФ В.В.Путина с Президентом Армении Сержем Саргсяном**

19 марта 2014 года, 19:10

По инициативе армянской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Республики Армения Сержем Саргсяном. Президенты обменялись мнениями в связи с воссоединением Республики Крым и Севастополя с Российской Федерацией. Владимир Путин и Серж Саргсян обсудили также актуальные вопросы российско-армянского сотрудничества и ход реализации договорённостей о присоединении Армении к Таможенному союзу.

**РФ РФ**

### **19 МАРТА 2014**

**Представители Комитетов Совета Федерации провели пресс-конференцию, посвященную первоочередным законодательным мерам по включению Крыма и Севастополя в состав Российской Федерации, в Международном мультимедийном центре РИА Новости**

**Обсуждаемые вопросы:**

- адаптация крымского законодательства к российскому;
- обеспечение безопасности новых субъектов РФ и новых участков государственной границы;

- проблемы получения крымчанами и севастопольцами российского гражданства;
- вопросы социального обеспечения жителей Крыма и Севастополя;

**Участники:**

**Валерий РЯЗАНСКИЙ** – председатель Комитета Совета Федерации по социальной политике.

**Алексей АЛЕКСАНДРОВ** – первый заместитель председателя Комитета Совета Федерации по конституционному законодательству, правовым и судебным вопросам, развитию гражданского общества.

**Сергей КАТАНАНДОВ** – первый заместитель председателя Комитета СФ по федеративному устройству, региональной политике, местному самоуправлению и делам Севера.

**Игорь МОРОЗОВ** – член Комитета Совета Федерации по международным делам.

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Сенаторы рассказали журналистам о первоочередных мерах, которые необходимо принять законодателям, в связи с включением Крыма и Севастополя в состав России.

Как подчеркнул председатель Комитета СФ по социальной политике **Валерий Рязанский**, работники бюджетной сферы Крыма и Севастополя уже весной почувствуют заметное улучшение своего материального положения.

«Социальные выплаты в России в разы выше, чем на Украине. Во всех профильных министерствах и ведомствах созданы рабочие стыковочные группы для максимально оперативной интеграции структур Крыма и России, отвечающих за социальную сферу», – заявил сенатор.

Первый заместитель председателя Комитета СФ по конституционному законодательству, правовым и судебным вопросам, развитию гражданского общества **Алексей Александров** сообщил, что в ближайшее время российский парламент рассмотрит два блока законов. Первый касается ратификации договора Крыма и Севастополя с Россией. Второй вносит изменения в Конституцию РФ в связи с присоединением двух новых субъектов федерации.

«Непростые вопросы предстоит решить по синхронизации судебных систем Крыма и России – необходимо обеспечить непрерывность осуществления правосудия на всей территории нашего государства», – отметил сенатор.

Парламентарий также подчеркнул важность быстрого решения проблем, связанных с вступлением крымчан в российское гражданство и оформлением их собственности в соответствии с федеральными законами. «Главное – спокойствие, никакого ажиотажа, только правовые меры».

Первый заместитель председателя Комитета СФ по федеративному устройству, региональной политике, местному самоуправлению и делам Севера **Сергей Катанандов** подтвердил, что уже есть поручение руководства верхней палаты активно работать над устранением нестыковок между крымским и российским законодательством. «Необходимо учесть то хорошее, что есть в опыте Крыма – особые традиции народовластия, уверенность и мужество в достижении своих целей».

Он напомнил, что часть российских регионов, например, Владимирская область и Татарстан, уже подписали двусторонние соглашения с Крымом.

Член Комитета Совета Федерации по международным делам **Игорь Морозов** подчеркнул, что обращение Президента РФ **Владимира Путина** к российскому парламенту поставило точку в истории однополярного мира. «Россия стала другой. Страной, которая открыто заявляет о своих национальных интересах и готова отстаивать их».

Парламентарий убежден, что в срочном порядке необходимо решать вопросы безопасности и охраны государственной границы. «В Крым съезжаются бойцы отряда «Беркут» – профессионально подготовленные люди, прошедшие через столкновения на

Майдане. Многие украинские военные готовы служить России. Это бесценный «человеческий капитал», который обязательно будет использован».

**ДД РФ**

**20 марта состоится внеочередное пленарное заседание Госдумы, на котором планируется ратифицировать Договор о принятии Республики Крым в Российскую Федерацию**

**19 МАРТА 2014 ГОДА**

19 марта, на пленарном заседании, Председатель Госдумы сообщил о внеочередном пленарном заседании палаты, которое состоится 20 марта в 16.00.

В ходе заседания депутаты планируют ратифицировать Договор о принятии Республики Крым в Российскую Федерацию и образовании новых субъектов.

Кроме того, будет рассмотрен Федеральный конституционный закон о принятии в Российскую Федерацию Республики Крым.

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**В Государственной Думе состоялась встреча депутатов Госдумы с делегацией Республики Крым**

**19 МАРТА 2014 ГОДА**

Открывая встречу, Председатель Государственной Думы Сергей Нарышкин отметил значимость подписания межгосударственного договора о принятии в состав России Республики Крым и образовании двух новых субъектов Российской Федерации.

«Безусловно, это знаковый этап не только в истории современной России, но и в многовековой истории всего нашего Отечества. Это переломные события мировой истории – перелом в противостоянии добра и зла, белого и черного», – заявил Сергей Нарышкин.

После вынесения Конституционным Судом России положительного решения о конституционности подписанного межгосударственного договора, Президент России внесет в Государственную Думу на ратификацию Договор и проект федерального конституционного закона. «Я хотел бы заверить всех, что депутаты Государственной Думы обеспечат в кратчайшие сроки принятие этих двух исторических законодательных актов. Мы сделаем все, чтобы поддержать крымчан особенно в этот непростой переходный период», – подчеркнул Председатель Госдумы.

«Дорогие наши крымские коллеги, добро пожаловать в Государственную Думу! Дорогие наши братья и сестры, добро пожаловать домой – в Россию!», – сказал в заключение Сергей Нарышкин.

Владимир Константинов, Председатель Государственного Совета Республики Крым, отметил серьезную поддержку со стороны России. «Благодарю всех, кто принял участие в этом великом действии, большое спасибо крымчанам, всему российскому народу, депутатам Государственной Думы. Впереди у нас много созидательной работы – мы вернулись домой и уже никуда отсюда не уйдем».

Председатель Совета министров Республики Крым Сергей Аксенов также выразил благодарность России за оказанную поддержку: «Патриотический подъем объединил Россию и Крым, нас всех, вне зависимости от политических взглядов и объединений. Надеюсь, что он распространится и на юго-восток Украины, где люди сегодня действительно в этом нуждаются».

Мэр Севастополя Алексей Чалый отметил, что последние два десятилетия жители города жили в надежде на воссоединение с Россией и особо обратил внимание на поддержку

депутатов Государственной Думы. «Вы появились у нас с самых первых дней. Ваше присутствие было чрезвычайно важно», – добавил А.Чалый.

Председатель фракции КПРФ Геннадий Зюганов, говоря о том, что «Крым пришел в лоно матери своей Родины – на русскую землю», заявил: «Сегодня необходимо оперативно оказать помощь крымчанам в сфере сельского хозяйства, в первую очередь горюче-смазочными материалами».

Председатель фракции ЛДПР Владимир Жириновский выразил уверенность, что «крымская теплота распространится на всю Россию» и «воссоединение России Крыма и Севастополя благотворно скажется на развитии туризма в регионе».

Отметив высокую явку на прошедшем в минувшее воскресенье референдуме в Крыму и Севастополе, первый заместитель руководителя фракции «ЕДИНАЯ РОССИЯ» Николай Булаев сказал о поддержке крымчан со стороны России. Он отметил: «Нужно сделать все, чтобы первого сентября крымские дети пришли в школы и учились по российским учебникам, учились по нашим стандартам. Главное, нужно сделать так, чтобы молодежь шла в вузы, а не на площади».

Председатель фракции СПРАВЕДЛИВАЯ РОССИЯ Сергей Миронов предложил ввести в Крыму налоговые льготы, по которым все сборы должны оставаться в самом регионе и идти на его развитие: «Считаю важным принять федеральный закон о создании свободной экономической зоны –Крым».

Заместитель председателя Государственной Думы Сергей Железняк сказал о важности приоритетного порядка рассмотрения «всех вопросов, которые помогли бы жителям Крыма и Севастополя почувствовать себя гражданами Российской Федерации, включая все привилегии россиян». Необходимо оказать моральную помощь всем, кто продолжает страдать на юго-востоке, в центре и в западных регионах Украины, – считает он, отметив, что эта поддержка должна быть оказана в строгом соответствии с нормами международного и российского права.

### МЗС РФ

**З заявою Постійного представника РФ при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН авд 19 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.**

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**Комментарий официального представителя МИД России А.К.Лукашевича в связи с заявлением представителя украинского МИД о русских на Украине**

601-19-03-2014

В МИД России обратили внимание на заявление представителя МИД Украины на брифинге 17 марта с.г., где он приводит странную, нелогичную и юридически безграмотную аргументацию, оспаривающую легитимность состоявшегося в Крыму референдума.

По его словам, право на самоопределение «касается коренных народов». На территории Украины, мол, проживают только четыре коренных этноса, включая самих украинцев, а русские к их числу не относятся. В подкрепление своих слов представитель почему-то приводит статьи Декларации ООН о правах коренных народов.

Вынуждены с сожалением констатировать, что украинские «специалисты» откровенно передергивают, произвольно трактуя нормы международного права. Право народов на самоопределение изложено в Международных пактах о правах человека и не связано с фиксацией статуса того или иного народа в качестве коренного.

Хотели бы также напомнить, что Декларация ООН о правах коренных народов особо оговаривает, что «...ничто в настоящей Декларации не может быть использовано для отказа любому народу в его праве на самоопределение...».

Если же смысл заявления заключается в том, чтобы, назвав русский народ «диаспорой», указать на его подчиненное положение по отношению к «коренному» украинскому населению этой страны, то изыскания «этнографов» с Михайловской площади Киева сильно напоминают исследования теоретиков нацизма в 1930-е годы прошлого века. Выдвигать намеренно искаженную трактовку происхождения народов, волею судеб оказавшихся связанными с различными географическими частями Украины, по меньшей мере, неуместно.

В МИД Украины совершают серьезную ошибку, замахиваясь в сложившейся критической ситуации на историческую память миллионов и миллионов русских и украинцев, испокон веков живущих вместе и внесших большой совместный вклад в становление и благосостояние исторической и современной Украины.

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#### **СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ**

**О телефонном разговоре Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Министром иностранных дел ФРГ Ф.-В.Штайнмайером**

596-19-03-2014

19 марта по инициативе германской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Министром иностранных дел ФРГ Ф.-В.Штайнмайером.

Было продолжено обсуждение развития ситуации на Украине, в том числе в контексте развертывания там мониторинговой миссии ОБСЕ.

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**Комментарий Департамента информации и печати МИД России по вопросу о Будапештском меморандуме 1994 года**

594-19-03-2014

В контексте ситуации на Украине некоторые наши партнеры не преминули случаям указать Российской Федерации на обязательства по Будапештскому меморандуму 1994 года. В этой связи хотели бы напомнить, в чем эти обязательства состоят и кто именно отвечает за их соблюдение.

В Будапештском меморандуме Россия, США и Великобритания обязались быть гарантами прав, присущих суверенитету Украины.

Хотелось бы задаться вопросом, каким образом укладываются в эти гарантии неоднократно звучавшие со стороны ЕС и США во время беспорядков в Киеве угрозы применения санкций к руководству Украины? Что это, как не экономическое принуждение в отношении суверенного государства? Как относиться, например, к чуть ли не постоянному дежурству западных эмиссаров на «майдане»? Как квалифицировать заявления США и ЕС о том, что там уже не рассматривают в качестве легитимного партнера законно избранного главу государства, в отличие от новых руководителей, назначенных на площади в нарушение всех конституционных процедур? Все это – примеры того, как США и ЕС активно потворствовали государственному перевороту в Киеве, действуя против политической независимости и суверенитета Украины в нарушение обязательств по Будапештскому меморандуму.

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**Комментарий Департамента информации и печати МИД России в связи с несостоявшимся визитом в Россию Председателя Европейского Совета Х.Ван Ромпея**

588-19-03-2014

17 марта в Россию со срочным визитом запросился Председатель Европейского Совета Х.Ван Ромпей. Цель – в преддверии намеченного на конец этой недели заседания

## 26 РОЗДІЛ. 19 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

Евросовета на высшем уровне из первых уст услышать позицию российской стороны в отношении кризиса на Украине и вокруг нее, а также видение путей выхода из все ухудшающейся ситуации. В Москве оперативно откликнулись на этот запрос и предложили лидеру Евросоюза принять его 19 марта. Ведь действительно похвально, что Х.Ван Ромпей захотел узнать правду о том, что творится на Украине.

Однако Председателя Евросовета в Москву не пустили. Причем не пустили свои же. Дескать, зачем ему надо знать правду, если и так все уже решено. Есть свои герои украинского кризиса – боевики «Правого сектора» и нелегитимное правительство, в которое входит целый ряд откровенных фашистов. Есть и свои «виновные» – Россия и народ Крыма, которые отказались принять логику неонацистского путча. Есть, наконец, и всевозможные санкции, которые вводятся независимо от того, что Россия сделала или нет. Теперь появился новый санкционный список – невыездных из Евросоюза в Россию. По иронии судьбы первым номером в этот список вписан сам Председатель Евросовета Х.Ван Ромпей.

### УКРАЇНА

#### КМ України

**19-20 березня 2014 року Міністр енергетики та вугільної промисловості України Юрія Продан здійснив робочий візит до інституцій ЄС**

(ПУ при ЄС)

19 березня 2014, 20:45

У рамках візиту відбулася зустріч Міністра з Комісаром ЄС з питань енергетики Гюнтером Оттінгером, головна увага під час якої була приділена активізації відносин України з ЄС в енергетичній сфері.

Співрозмовники обговорили питання модернізації газотранспортної системи України, диверсифікації поставок природного газу із країн Європи, розвідки та видобутку нетрадиційного газу в Україні. Особливу увагу було приділено питанню забезпечення стабільного функціонування енергетичної галузі України в сучасних умовах. У ході зустрічі йшлося також про реформування енергетичного сектору та інтеграції енергетичної системи України до енергетичних ринків Європи.

Під час візиту Юрій Продан також взяв участь у слуханнях в Європейському Парламенті на тему діяльності Енергетичного Співтовариства, організованих за ініціативою головуючого у Групі реагування високого рівня ЕС Є.Бузека.

Виступаючи на заході, Міністр зупинився на пріоритетах нового Уряду України в енергетичній сфері, а також на ключових завданнях нашої держави в контексті головування в Енергетичному Співтоваристві протягом 2014 рок

#### МЗС України

**Ситуація у Криму станом на 19.03.2014**

(ПП України а ЄС)

19 березня 2014, 20:01

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

*On March 19, 2014, the developments were characterized by the following:*

**Assaults and blockade of Ukrainian military bases on the peninsula, extension of Russia's military presence in Crimea**

- In Sevastopol, headquarters of Ukrainian Navy were stormed and seized by Russian military
- In Sevastopol, Commander of the Ukrainian Navy S.Hayduk was kidnapped and is missing

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- In Yevpatoriya, Russian military have seized control of measurement base and aircraft factory of Ukrainian Armed Forces
- In Bakhchysarai, servicemen of Ukrainian autobatallion were forced out of their base
- In Belbek, division of Ukrainian Armed Forces was tossed by stun grenades, and was forced to use arms in order to fight off the assault
- In Perevalne, Ukrainian military division have fought off an assault on their base
- In Yevpatoriya, Ukrainian Navy base was assaulted by Russian forces
- In Sevastopol, Russian military surrounded rocket division of Ukrainian Armed Forces and demanded the surrender of arms
- In Feodosia, marine base of Ukraine's Armed Forces was surrounded by Russian military
- Ukrainian corvette "Ternopil" has received an ultimatum from Russian Black Sea Fleet to surrender arms
- Near Kirovske, Russian military have deployed mobile rocket systems "OSA" on local airfield
- On Crimean border with mainland Ukraine, Ukrainian military were subjected to continuous provocations
- Overnight, Russian military presence in Crimea has increased by 400 servicemen and now constitutes 22,000 of them
- As of March 19, 18 facilities of state infrastructure are seized (12 of them military), and 35 blocked (including 28 military)

### **Illegal separatist activities of self-proclaimed pro-Russian "puppet" government**

- Denial of landing for a plane that carried Ukraine's Defense Minister I.Teniukh and Vice Prime Minister V.Yarema to Crimea
- Launch of drafting of "blacklists" of Maidan's supporters, pro-Ukrainian locals and Ukrainian servicemen, which will be passed to Russian security services
- Self-proclaimed "prime-minister" S.Aksionov has called on Russia to "help" Russian-speaking population of eastern Ukraine
- Announcement of plans to nationalize 130 tourist facilities, which are in state property of Ukraine
- First passports of Russia are illegally issued to Crimean locals
- Announcement of plans to rename vessels of Ukrainian Navy in Crimea after they are seized
- Decision has been taken bring in Russian telephone area codes in Crimea and to withdraw Ukrainian Hryvnia from currency circulation
- Russian major political party "United Russia" has decided to open its branch in Crimea

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**З заявою Постійного представника України при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 19 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися розділі РБ ООН.**

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**Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Д.Лубківський провів телефонну розмову із заступником глави зовнішньополітичного відомства Турецької Республіки Алі Кемалем Айдином**  
19 березня 2014, 16:00

В центрі уваги перебували питання політичної підтримки нашої держави з боку Туреччини у контексті вирішення дипломатичними методами критичної ситуації, що склалася навколо анексії Російською Федерацією Автономної Республіки Крим.

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ Туреччини А.К.Айдин наголосив, що Турецька Республіка як стратегічний партнер України беззаперечно підтримує її територіальну цілісність, недоторканість міжнародно-визнаних кордонів та єдність нашої держави. Він також підтвердив готовність офіційної Анкари до активізації спільних з Україною зусиль

як на дво-, так і багатосторонньому рівні з метою мирного врегулювання драматичної ситуації, що склалася в Криму.

За словами заступника Міністра Д.Лубківського, агресивні дії Росії поставили під загрозу не лише територіальну цілісність України, а й стали безпрецедентним викликом для міжнародного правопорядку.

У ході розмови було обговорено шляхи забезпечення захисту і надання практичної допомоги громадянам України, які стали заручниками агресивних дій Російської Федерації в АРК, зокрема представникам численної кримсько-татарської громади.

Співрозмовники також торкнулися окремих актуальних питань двостороннього порядку денного, домовилися вжити заходів з метою поглиблення відносин стратегічного партнерства між Україною і Турецькою Республікою.

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**Перший заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Н.Галібаренко прийняла Тимчасового повіреного у справах РФ в Україні А.Воробйова**

19 березня 2014, 16:02

19 березня до МЗС України був викликаний Тимчасовий повірений у справах РФ в Україні А.Воробйов.

Під час зустрічі Перший заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Н.Галібаренко висловила протест проти дій військових формувань Росії, спрямованих на провокацію збройних інцидентів, внаслідок яких загинув військовослужбовець Збройних Сил України прапорщик С.В.Какурін та було спричинено важкі поранення капітану В.А.Федуну. Перший заступник Міністра заклала російську сторону до діалогу з врегулювання кризової ситуації навколо Автономної Республіки Крим.

Російському дипломату було вручено ноту МЗС України з цього питання.

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**Заява Міністерства закордонних справ України щодо формату співпраці України в рамках СНД**

19 березня 2014, 16:31

8 грудня 1991 року Україна підписала Біловезьку угоду і разом із Російською Федерацією і Республікою Білорусь стала однією із держав-засновниць Співдружності Незалежних Держав.

Україна виходила з того, що базовими принципами цієї організації будуть взаємна повага до державного суверенітету та територіальної цілісності держав-учасниць, недоторканість і непорушність державних кордонів, відмова від застосування сили або загрози силою, відданість принципу мирного розв'язання міжнародних спорів.

На жаль, останні події засвідчили протилежне.

Опинившись у складній безпековій ситуації, Україна доклала максимум зусиль до залучення СНД для захисту територіальної цілісності і недоторканності своїх державних кордонів та врегулювання конфлікту з Російською Федерацією.

Україною було ініційовано проведення позачергового засідання Ради Міністрів закордонних справ СНД в Києві. Ми закликали партнерів по Співдружності схвалити політичну заяву щодо ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим, засудити прояви агресії по відношенню до суверенної української території та дотримуватися базових принципів Угоди про створення СНД.

Україна висловлює глибокий жаль, що Співдружність замість реалізації своїх завдань щодо налагодження співробітництва і врегулювання конфліктних ситуацій на пострадянському просторі, перетворилась на інструмент реалізації інтересів окремих її членів, зокрема Російської Федерації.

## 26 РОЗДІЛ. 19 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

Особливе обурення викликають факти підтримки окремими державами-учасницями СНД дій Російської Федерації щодо анексії території України у розріз з принципами міжнародного права.

З урахуванням викладеного, Українською Стороною ухвалено рішення не продовжувати своє головування у Співдружності у 2014 році. Відповідна нота буде надіслана до Виконавчого Комітету СНД найближчим часом.

Враховуючи недотримання більшістю держав-учасниць СНД зобов'язань Сторін, закріплених в Угоді про створення СНД, щодо визнання і поваги територіальної цілісності одна одної, недоторканості кордонів, співпраці у забезпеченні міжнародного миру і безпеки, а також політичну заангажованість та неефективність існуючого формату співпраці в рамках СНД, Україна залишає за собою право розглянути питання про доцільність подальшої участі у діяльності Співдружності.

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**Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України С.Кислиця зустрівся з помічником Генерального секретаря ООН, директором Регіонального бюро Програми розвитку ООН (ПРООН) для Європи та СНД Дж.Султаноглу**

19 березня 2014, 17:08

С.Кислиця підкреслив, що взаємодія з ООН є наріжним каменем зовнішньополітичної діяльності України. У зв'язку з цим сторони обговорили поточні пріоритети діяльності ПРООН в Україні та завдання на найближчу перспективу, з урахуванням нинішньої ситуації в Україні, а також роботи відділення ПРООН в АРК.

У ході бесіди Дж.Султаноглу наголосила, що ПРООН готова зробити все можливе, щоб підтримати Україну з метою забезпечення її сталого економічного розвитку.

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**Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України – керівник апарату А.Олефіров зустрівся з Головою Місії ОБСЄ/БДПЛ Каetanoю де Зулуета Овтрем**

19 березня 2014, 18:10

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України – керівник апарату Андрій Олефіров зустрівся з Головою Місії ОБСЄ/БДПЛ зі спостереження за позачерговими президентськими виборами в Україні Каetanoю де Зулуета Овтрем.

Сторони обговорили передвиборчу ситуацію в країні та процес підготовки до президентських виборів, забезпечення висвітлення передвиборчої кампанії у ЗМІ тощо. Андрій Олефіров запевнив ОБСЄ в готовності української сторони надати максимальне сприяння у роботі міжнародної місії спостерігачів.

Під час перебування в Україні Місія підтримуватиме постійні контакти з центральними органами влади, представниками громадянського суспільства, політичних партій, іноземного дипкорпусу, акредитованого в Україні.

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**Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Д.Лубківський провів телефонну розмову із заступником керівника МЗС Азербайджанської Республіки Халафом Халафовим**

19 березня 2014, 18:14

Першочергову увагу було приділено розвитку ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим, окупованій російськими військами.

## 26 РОЗДІЛ. 19 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

Заступник Міністра Х.Халафов підтвердив, що офіційний Баку виступає за територіальну цілісність України у міжнародно-визнаних кордонах та за врегулювання ситуації в АРК мирними засобами у рамках Статуту ООН.

Співрозмовники відзначили взаємну готовність обох наших держав до подальшого розвитку відносин стратегічного партнерства. Досягнуто домовленість про проведення ближчим часом двосторонніх політичних консультацій у Києві.

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**Відбулася телефонна розмова заступника Міністра закордонних справ України Д.Лубківського із Державним секретарем МЗС Румунії Богданом Ауреску**  
19 березня 2014, 19:31

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Данило Лубківський провів телефонну розмову із заступником керівника МЗС Румунії Богданом Ауреску

Д.Лубківський висловив подяку своєму румунському колезі за рішучу підтримку територіальної цілісності України з боку офіційного Бухареста.

Заступник керівника МЗС Румунії Б.Ауреску ще раз підтвердив позицію керівництва румунської держави щодо засудження агресивних дій Росії в АРК та невизнання анексії Криму.

Сторони обмінялися думками щодо Придністровського врегулювання та висловилися за продовження тісного діалогу з цього питання.

Співрозмовники обговорили першочергові завдання, що стоять на порядку денному двосторонніх відносин. Зокрема, домовлено вжити заходів з метою підписання міждержавної Угоди про малий прикордонний рух, що має стати важливим кроком на шляху лібералізації візового режиму для громадян України.

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**Перший заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Н.Галібаренко прийняла Посла Республіки Казахстан в Україні Заутбека Турісбекова**  
19 березня 2014, 20:00

Казахстанській стороні було висловлено глибоке занепокоєння України з приводу заяви МЗС Республіки Казахстан щодо т.зв. “референдуму” в Автономній Республіці Крим. Було наголошено, що її зміст суперечить попереднім заявам казахстанської сторони, в тому числі на найвищому рівні, про необхідність дотримання територіальної цілісності України.

Було також обговорено розвиток українсько-казахстанських відносин на ближчу перспективу, в т.ч. графік двосторонніх контактів на поточний рік.

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**Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України – керівник апарату А.Олефіров провів зустріч з послами Аргентини, Бразилії, Мексики та представником Посольства Куби в Україні**  
19 березня 2014, 20:36

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України – керівник апарату Андрій Олефіров зустрівся з Надзвичайними і Повноважними Послами Аргентини, Бразилії, Мексики та представником Посольства Куби в Україні.

У ході зустрічі відбувся обмін думками щодо останніх подій в Україні. У цьому зв'язку представників країн Латинської Америки було поінформовано про першочергові завдання внутрішньої та зовнішньої політики нашої держави. Андрій Олефіров наголосив на

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важливості об'єднання зусиль світової спільноти, зокрема в рамках ООН та інших міжнародних організацій, для гарантування територіальної цілісності України.

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### **Посольство України у Франції провело брифінг щодо ситуації в Криму для Послів країн-членів ЄС у Парижі**

(Посольство України у Франції)

19 березня 2014, 21:46

У світлі загострення Кримської кризи 19 березня 2014 Посольство України у Франції організувало брифінг для Послів країн-членів ЄС, акредитованих у Парижі, а також дипломатів керівної ланки Міністерства закордонних справ Франції.

У ході заходу Посол України у Франції Олександр Купчишин детально пробрифінговав колег про розвиток ситуації в Україні та надав широке висвітлення внутрішнім політичним процесам у нашій державі.

Окрему увагу О.Купчишин приділив хронології подій в Криму та юридичній оцінці протиправних дій РФ як порушника територіальної цілісності, агресора та окупанта нашої держави.

Зустріч підтвердила повну підтримку країн-членів ЄС Української держави, рішуче засудження протиправних агресивних дій РФ, а також невизнання результатів нелегітимного референдуму 16 березня ц.р..

Дипломатами країн ЄС було висловлено рішучу солідарність з нашою державою у цей кризовий для України час, а також безумовну підтримку підписання політичної частини Угоди про асоціацію 21 березня ц.р.

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### **Виступ Постійного представника України при Відділенні ООН та інших міжнародних організаціях у Женеві, Посла Ю.А.Клименка у ході інтерактивного діалогу з п.3 порядку денного 25-ї сесії Ради ООН з прав людини**

(ПП України у Відні)

19 березня 2014, 15:08

#### **25<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Intervention by Ukraine under the agenda item 3**

*19 March, 2014*

**Mr. President,**

**Madame Independent Expert,**

On March 6, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors stated that during her visit to Crimea she found no evidence of violations or threats to the rights of Russians and Russian-speaking citizens in Crimea.

As it was repeatedly witnessed by international experts, including of the UN system, there is no credible evidence of Russian minority rights violations in Ukraine.

The new government of Ukraine has unequivocally stated its reinvigorated adherence to the promotion and protection of rights of minorities according to the highest international standards (relevant data has been circulated as a document of the HRC). Let me give you just some figures to support these statements.

Around 40% of all printed mass media in Ukraine are in the Russian language.

There are 1176 Russian language newspapers in Ukraine.

10 to 90% of the total broadcasting in Ukraine (depending on the region) use the Russian language.

103 Russian minority NGOs conduct large scale activities in Ukraine.

Russian is the language of study in more than 1200 general schools.

The 2012 Language Law remains in force. At the same time there was a decision to produce a

new bill to enhance necessary protection according to the best international standards. It is to be sent to the Venice Commission by March 30.

All evidence available definitely testifies that there are no prerequisites for ethnic tensions or discrimination in Ukraine, including with regard to the Russian minority. It is solidly based on relevant reports of the UN human rights mechanisms, including the UPR and treaty bodies.

At the same time, the Ukrainian government and the OSCE High Commissioner are alarmed that human rights violations and inter-ethnic relations in the Crimea became considerably aggravated as a result of actions by the self-proclaimed government of Crimea, including illegal decisions to conduct the so-called “referendum” and to become a part of the Russian Federation.

We would appreciate hearing the Independent Expert’s opinion on what measures could be taken to protect the Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar and other groups in Crimea, whose rights are violated under the Russian occupation.

**Thank you.**

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**Рішення Конституційного Суду України щодо проведення місцевого референдуму у Криму (англ. мовою)**

19 березня 2014, 15:46

**J U D G M E N T  
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF UKRAINE**

**In the case on the constitutional petition of the Acting President of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine (constitutionality) of the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic Crimea “On holding the all-Crimean referendum”**

**(the case on the all-Crimean referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea)**

Kyiv

Case No. 1-13/2014

March 14, 2014

No. 2-рп/2014

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine consisting of Judges:

Baulin Yurii Vasyliovych – the Chairman,  
Bryntsev Vasyl Dmytrovych,  
Vdovichenko Sergey Leonidovych,  
Hultai Mykhailo Myroslavovych,  
Zaporozhets Mykhailo Petrovych,  
Lytvynov Oleksandr Mykolaiovych,  
Melnik mykola Ivanovych,  
Sas Sergii Volodymyrovych,  
Serheichuk Oleh Anatoliiovych,  
Slidenko Igor Dmytrovych,  
Stetsiuk Petro Bogdanovych – Rapporteur,  
Tupytskii Oleksandr Mykolaiovych – Rapporteur,  
Shaptala Natalia Koctiantynivna,  
Shevchuk Stanislav Volodymyrovych,  
Shyshkin Victor Ivanovych,

considered in the plenary session the case on the constitutional petition of the Acting President of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine

(constitutionality) of the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic Crimea No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014 (the newspaper “Krymskiye izvestiya”, March 7, 2014).

The consideration of the case in accordance with Articles 39, 40 and 41 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” was caused by the constitutional petition of the Acting President of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

The ground for considering the case in accordance with Article 71 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” is the assertion of the subjects of the right in the constitutional petition of unconstitutionality of the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic Crimea No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014.

Having heard the Judge-Rapporteurs Stetsiuk P.B., Tupytskii O.M. and having investigated the materials of the case the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

**established:**

1. Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Resolution No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as “the Resolution”) decided:

- To accede to the Russian Federation as a subject of Russian Federation;  
- To hold on March 16, 2014, of the all-Crimean Referendum (including the City of Sevastopol), to which to submit the following alternative questions:

“1) Do you support the reunification of the Crimea with Russia as a subject of the Russian Federation?”

2) Do you support the restoration of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 1992 and the status of the Crimea as a part of Ukraine?”

- To approve the text of the ballot for the all-Crimean referendum on March 16, 2014, and to establish that the ballots to vote in the referendum printed in Russian, Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar;

- To adopt the Temporary regulation on a republican (local) referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

- To establish the Commission of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on holding the all-Crimean referendum;

- To address the President and the Federal Council of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to initiate the procedure of accession to the Russian Federation as a subject of Russian Federation.

In the Regulation it is also provided that the option supported by the majority of votes shall be deemed a direct expression of will by the Crimean population, and instructed the Commission of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on holding the all-Crimean referendum to organize conducting of the referendum in accordance with the Temporary regulation on a republican (local) referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to organize financial, technical and other support for holding the all-Crimean referendum.

2. The subject of the right to constitutional petition – the Acting President of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine – under Article 112, paragraph 2 of Article 137 of the Constitution of Ukraine by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 261 “On suspending the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea No. 1702-6/14 ‘On holding the all-Crimean referendum’ dated March 6, 2014,” dated March 7, 2014, has suspended the Resolution and at the same time submitted to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine the request to consider its conformity with the Constitution of Ukraine (its constitutionality). According to the author of the petition, the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by adopting the Resolution violated the constitutional principles of state sovereignty of

Ukraine, basics of the constitutional order, territorial organization and exercise of state power in Ukraine. As the subject of the right to constitutional petition alleges the Resolution does not match Articles 2, 5, 8, 13, 73, 75, paragraphs 2, 3 of Article 85, Article 91, Articles 13, part 20 of Article 92, Articles 132 – 138 of the Constitution Ukraine, parts 1, 3 of Article 1, paragraph 7 of Article 18, Article 26 of the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Articles 1, 9, 10 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.”

The subject of the right to constitutional petition – the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights – requested the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to recognize the Resolution as non-conforming with Article 73, paragraph 2 Article 85, Article 137, 138 of the Constitution of Ukraine and noted that the issue of altering the territory of Ukraine must be resolved exclusively by an all-Ukrainian referendum.

3. Under the Judgment of the Second Panel of Judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine of March 11, 2014, constitutional proceedings in the cases on the constitutional petitions of the Acting President of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine (constitutionality) of the Resolution were consolidated in one constitutional proceeding.

4. Resolving of the issues initiated in the constitutional petition the Constitutional Court of Ukraine proceeds from the following:

4.1. The Constitution of Ukraine proclaimed that sovereignty of Ukraine extends throughout its entire territory; integral part of sovereignty is integrity and inviolability of the territory of Ukraine within its present borders; protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is the most important function of the state and a matter of concern for all the Ukrainian people (Article 2, part 1 of Article 17 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

The Constitution of Ukraine shall be regarded as superior law; laws and other regulatory legal acts shall be adopted on the basis of the Constitution of Ukraine and shall conform to it; norms of the Constitution of Ukraine shall be the norms of direct effect; public authorities and bodies of local self-government and their officials shall be obliged to act only on the grounds, within the powers, and in the way determined by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine (Article 8, Part 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

The territorial structure of Ukraine, the legal regime of the state border shall be determined exclusively by law of Ukraine (paragraphs 13, 18 of part 1 of Article 92 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

4.2. The people shall be the bearer of sovereignty and the sole source of power in Ukraine; the people shall exercise power directly or through the state authorities and local self-government bodies; the right to determine and change the constitutional order in Ukraine shall belong exclusively to the people and shall not be usurped by the state, its bodies, or officials; no one shall usurp the state power (Article 5 of the Fundamental Law of Ukraine).

The expression of the will by the people shall be exercised through elections, referendum and other forms of direct democracy; citizens shall have the right to participate in the administration of state affairs, in all-Ukrainian and local referendums, to freely elect and to be elected to the bodies of state power and local self-government (part 1 of Article 38, Article 69 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

The right of citizens to participate in a referendum is their inalienable constitutional right. Questions submitted on the all-Ukrainian referendum must be national-level issues, i.e. the resolution of which affects the fate of all Ukrainian people – citizens of Ukraine of all nationalities. Questions submitted on the local referendum may be only issues within the jurisdiction of the local authorities of relevant administrative and territorial unit.

4.3. Under Article 132 of the Constitution of Ukraine the territorial structure of Ukraine shall be based on the principles of unity and integrity of the state territory, the combination of centralization and decentralization in the exercise of the state power, and the balanced socio-economic development of regions taking into consideration their historical, economic, ecological, geographic, and demographic characteristics as well as ethnic and cultural traditions.

Such constitutional principles of territorial structure are determined by the form of state structure of Ukraine as a unitary state.

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine in its Judgment No. 11-пп/2001 of July 13, 2001, (the case of administrative and territorial structure) established that administrative and territorial unit is a compact part of the united territory of Ukraine, which is the spatial basis for organization and activity of public authorities and local governments.

The system of the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine shall include: the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblasts, rayons, cities, city districts, settlements and villages (Article 133 of the Constitution of Ukraine). According to Article 133 of the Fundamental Law of Ukraine the Autonomous Republic of Ukraine Crimea and the City of Sevastopol are parts of Ukraine as separate subjects of administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine. The City of Sevastopol is not a part of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, has a special status determined by the law of Ukraine.

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine stressed that the principles of integrity and territorial inviolability of Ukraine within its present borders, extending of sovereignty of Ukraine throughout its entire territory are established by the Constitution of Ukraine. Reduction of the existing borders of Ukraine, withdrawal of any subject of the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine from its body, changing of the constitutional status of administrative units, in particular of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol as an integral part of Ukraine, within holding a local referendum contradicts the above-mentioned constitutional principles

4.4. Any changes to the territory of Ukraine shall be resolved exclusively by the all-Ukrainian referendum (Article 73 of the Constitution of Ukraine). Authority to call the all-Ukrainian referendum on issues indicated in said Article of the Constitution of Ukraine belongs to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (paragraph 2 of part 1 of Article 85 of the Fundamental Law of Ukraine). Organization and procedure for conducting elections and referendums shall be determined exclusively by the laws of Ukraine (paragraph 20 of part 1 of Article 92 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be an integral constituent part of Ukraine and shall resolve issues relegated to its authority within the frame determined by the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 134 of the Constitution of Ukraine). The list of matters that are under the authority of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and areas in which it effects normative regulation is determined in Articles 137, 138 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

The constitutional status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea complies with European Charter of Local Self-Government ratified by the law of Ukraine No. 452/97-VR dated July 15, 1997, according to which the basic powers and responsibilities of local authorities shall be prescribed by the constitution or by statute; local authorities shall, within the limits of the law, have full discretion to exercise their initiative with regard to any matter which is not excluded from their competence nor assigned to any other authority (paragraphs 1, 2 of Article 4)

4.5. According to the Constitution of Ukraine it is under the authority of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to organize and hold of local referendums (paragraph 2 of Article 138) in the manner determined by the law of Ukraine (paragraph 20 of par one of Article 92). Regulatory legal acts of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and decisions of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall not contradict the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and shall be adopted in accordance with and in pursuance of the Constitution of Ukraine, laws of Ukraine, acts of the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (part 2 of Article 135 of the Fundamental Law of Ukraine).

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine considers that the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by adopting the Resolution, which provides pore accession to the Russian Federation as its subject, addressing to the President and Federal Council of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to initiate the procedure of accession to the Russian Federation as a subject of Russian Federation, putting to the referendum mentioned questions, violated

constitutional principle of territorial integrity of Ukraine and exceeded its authorities, and thus the Resolution does not comply with Articles 1, 2, 5, 8, paragraph 2 of Article 19, Article 73, paragraph 3 of Article 85, paragraphs 13, 18, paragraph 20 of Article 92, Articles 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 138 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

The Resolution contradicts also the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a state, constituted in international law instruments, in particular the principle of mutual respect for the sovereign equality of each state including political independence, the ability to change the borders under international law by peaceful means and by agreement. As a result of these principles States Parties shall refrain from violation of territorial integrity or political independence of any state by use of force or threat of force or other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, as well as actions directed against the territorial integrity or unity of any State Party (The United Nations Charter, the Final Act of Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1975, the Framework Convention the Protection of National Minorities of 1995).

5. By the Resolution, the Commission of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on holding the all-Crimean referendum is established. Under the Temporary regulation on a republican (local) referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea it is provided for establishing of territorial and district commission on preparing and holding the referendum.

According to the Resolution, the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall organize financial, technical and other support for holding the all-Crimean referendum. Due to the fact that the Resolution contradicts the Constitution of Ukraine and according to Article 81 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” activity of all organs created to hold of this referendum as well as financing activities to hold of the referendum should be terminated, and ballots and campaign materials should be destroyed.

Thus, based on the materials of the case the Constitutional Court Ukraine came to the conclusion that the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by adopting the Resolution No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014, violated the Constitution of Ukraine.

Given the above and pursuant to Articles 147, 150, 153 of the Constitution of Ukraine, Articles 51, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 70, 73, 78, 79, 81 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

**rendered the judgment:**

1. To recognize as non-conforming with the Constitution (unconstitutional) the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014.
2. The Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea No. 1702-6/14 “On holding the all-Crimean referendum” dated March 6, 2014, declared unconstitutional shall be voided on the day of rendering by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine of this Judgment.
3. To terminate the work of the Commission of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on holding the all-Crimean referendum, and territorial and district commissions established to hold the referendum.
4. The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea must terminate funding of activities connected with holding the referendum; ensure the destruction of ballots and campaign materials.
5. The Judgment of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall be compulsory in the territory of Ukraine, final and may not be appealed.

The Judgment of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall be subject to promulgation in “Visnyk of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” and other official publications of Ukraine.

**КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"**

**США**

**Statement of the U.S. Embassy on the Abuse of UT-1's Oleksandr Panteleymonov by Members of the "Svoboda" Party**

**March 19, 2014**

The United States Embassy in Kyiv condemns the heavy-handed bullying and physical abuse of Mr. Oleksandr Panteleymonov, head of Ukraine's National Television Channel, UT-1, by members of the political party "Svoboda" on March 18. We welcome today's statements by both Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Minister of Interior Avakov decrying this behavior as unacceptable. We urge the Svoboda party to discipline Svoboda MP Ihor Miroshnychenko and other party members involved in the incident.

We, along with many Ukrainians, are deeply offended by this incident, which was not an exercise in patriotism, but instead a reminder of the thug-like tactics previously employed by the Yanukovich regime. This behavior has no place in a Ukraine committed to defending democracy, civil liberties, and individual freedoms, particularly press freedoms. Over the past months, we have commented positively on Svoboda's productive, indeed key, role during the Maidan protests and in the peaceful transition to a new, more transparent government. We welcome Svoboda leader Tyahnybok's repeated statement of his commitment to building a modern, European and democratic political party. This is particularly important now that Svoboda had become a part of government. However, this incident is unacceptable in a modern, democratic society.

We applaud the timely announcement by Prosecutor General Makhnytsky that his office will conduct a criminal investigation into the incident and urge the Svoboda party to cooperate fully. We expect all Ukrainians to protect and honor their democratic rights and freedoms as well as those of others.

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**З заявою Місії Сполучених Штатів в ОБСЄ про розгортання спеціальної Місії спостерігачів ОБСЄ в Україні, оприлюдненої Послом Деніелем Беєром на засіданні Підготовчого комітету (Відень, 19 березня 2014 року) можна ознайомитися у розділі ОБСЄ.**

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**Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Carlos Pascual Travel to Ukraine, Belgium and Moldova**

**MEDIA NOTE**

Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Carlos Pascual will travel to Ukraine, Belgium and Moldova from March 19-25. In Ukraine, Special Envoy Pascual will meet with senior officials of the Ukrainian government and co-chair a meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Energy Security Working Group, which will focus on efforts to increase Ukraine's energy security.

In Moldova, Special Envoy Pascual will meet with senior officials to discuss issues of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation and regional concerns, and chair a meeting of the U.S.-Moldova Energy Working Group. In Brussels, he will discuss energy issues with participants in the Brussels Forum and meet with European Union officials.

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**Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy R. Sherman Travels to Ukraine and Belgium  
Media Note**

**Office of the Spokesperson  
Washington, DC  
March 19, 2014**

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy R. Sherman will travel to Ukraine from March 20-22 to meet with senior Ukrainian officials and representatives of civil society. Under Secretary Sherman will reaffirm the United States' strong support for the Ukrainian people and for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. From Kyiv, Under Secretary Sherman will travel to Brussels, Belgium on March 22 to participate in the Brussels Forum, an annual discussion of current issues of interest to global leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

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**З заявою Постійного представника США при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 19 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.**

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**Remarks to the Press by Vice President Joe Biden, President Dalia Grybauskaite of Lithuania, and President Andris Berzins of Latvia**

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Vice President

March 19, 2014

Presidential Palace

Vilnius, Lithuania

1:20 P.M. (Local)

PRESIDENT GRYBAUSKAITE: (As interpreted.) Good afternoon. So today we had an important meeting with U.S. Vice President Biden and Latvian President Berzins. With our partners, we discussed the situation in Ukraine and its impact on the security of the Baltic States and Europe as a whole. I see it as a threat not only to Ukraine but also to the entire international community.

We witnessed the use of brutal force to redraw the map of Europe and to undermine the postwar political architecture established in Europe. We strongly condemn Russian actions on the territory of sovereign Ukraine. We consider Sunday's referendum and its results illegal. The so-called referendum is a violation of the constitution of Ukraine, international law and the United Nations Charter.

De facto Russia is carrying out the annexation of Crimea and this is happening very close to the borders of Lithuania. The situation is a direct threat to our regional security. Therefore, we must take all the necessary measures to ensure the security of Europe and the Baltic region.

And this is what we discussed with Vice President Biden and Latvian President Berzins. And I would like to thank the United States, especially, which immediately responded to the threats and took all necessary actions to ensure regional security, including the reinforcement of NATO-Baltic air policing mission. The United States is a strategic partner of Lithuania and the Baltic countries. It has always firmly supported and continues to support our aspirations to ensure political, military, economic, and energy security in the region.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT BERZINS: Ladies and gentlemen. Dalia, thank you for hosting this event. I was happy in a different way to see your country (inaudible.)

Secondly, I would like to appreciate the visit of Vice President Joe Biden to the Baltic States. Thank you for fulfilling your promise to come to us on this very, very important current stage. But I would like to thank you for unwavering reassurance. It is a clear reference to Article 5 by our NATO ally, the United States, to the security of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, as expressed by the Vice President during our meeting earlier today.

The situation in Ukraine caused by annexation of Crimea is alarming. This dramatically re-forms the European security structure with global implications. Today we discussed the need for not only the immediate de-escalation of the situation, but also for long-term solutions for the security architecture. I am glad that we could offer some practical steps with regard during our discussions today. The same practical approach (inaudible) energy security – there is the issue of supply need to be addressed. As a good example here, I would like to underline the need to accelerate the construction of gas interconnection linking Poland, Lithuania and further on, to Latvia, and using storage facilities in Latvia.

Madam President, dear Vice President, we exchanged views on the situation inside Ukraine. We share the opinion that Ukraine must be helped immediately, both politically and economically. And I can only praise the United States and the European Union alike for very decisive steps outlining their commitment in this regard.

Yesterday, immediately after meeting with President Komorowski, I got a call from him and we agreed to coordinate our activities over the short term and also in longer term. (Inaudible) this common view on September in NATO meeting in U.K. This coordination and support of U.S. is very, very crucial in current stage and we are fully convinced that working closely together we will come to peaceful solution immediately for Ukraine and for all future activities for whole world. This is most crucial for it.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: Thank you. Madam President, thank you for the hospitality. It's great to see you again, to be with you again, particularly in such magnificent surroundings. Thank you for the hospitality. And, Mr. President, it's good to see you again. It's good to be back in Vilnius.

For 50 years, three embassies in exile in Washington, D.C. stood as a symbol of America's commitment to freedom and independence and the people of the Baltics. Next week, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of your membership in NATO as fellow free nations and close friends. Nobody understands better than the people of the Baltics the value of freedom. And nobody understands better the promise of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Today, I spoke with my colleagues, the Presidents of Lithuania and Latvia, about the situation in Ukraine. Yesterday, I met with Estonian President Ilves and the President of Poland and the Prime Minister of Poland in Warsaw. Just as you did a generation ago, the Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians join hands in a human chain of freedom.

Ukrainians have shown tremendous courage to realize their aspirations for a better life and integration into the institutions of their choice – not anyone else's choice – of their choice. Russia has chosen to respond with military aggression, a referendum rejected by virtually the entire world, illegal efforts to annex Crimea, and now reports of armed attacks against Ukrainian military personnel and installations in Crimea.

I want to make it clear: We stand resolutely with our Baltic allies in support of the Ukrainian people and against Russian aggression. As long as Russia continues on this dark path, they will face increasing political and economic isolation.

There are those who say that this action shows the old rules still apply, but Russia cannot escape the fact that the world is changing and rejecting outright their behavior. Global markets and the international community will and should bet in the long run on countries that reject aggression and corruption, embrace openness and live up to their obligations. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania understand this well. That doesn't mean that there aren't aggressors out there that require firm and resolute response. There always have been and there always will be. But it does mean that there are costs, and growing costs, that come with naked aggression.

Madam President, Mr. President, the reason I traveled to the Baltics was to reaffirm our mutual commitment to collective defense. President Obama wanted me to come personally to make it clear what you already know, that under Article 5 of the NATO treaty, we will respond. We will respond to any aggression against a NATO ally.

As someone who fought for your nation's admission into NATO, rest assured we take our responsibilities very, very, very seriously – the President does; I do; my nation does. That's why we have in the recent past beefed up our U.S. rotation in NATO Baltic air policing program, which protects the skies above Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. And that will continue to be the case. We've also asked other members of NATO to make additional contributions to this and other efforts, and I'm confident they will step forward.

Looking ahead, we're exploring a number of additional steps to increase the pace and scope of our military cooperation, including rotating U.S. forces of the Baltic region to conduct ground and naval exercises, and training missions. The question today is not what can America do for the Baltic nations; it is what can we do together – what can we do together.

The Baltic nations have shown leadership at the OSCE, the European Union, the Eastern Partnership and the U.N. Security Council. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian troops have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans in Afghanistan and have served in difficult regional and global security missions.

I know that President Obama will want to use the upcoming NATO summit in South Wales to generate concrete commitments to ensure that NATO is able to meet its Article 5 obligations to all members, which has been a priority from him and me since the beginning of our administration.

And, finally, we spoke of energy. We spoke about energy cooperation. We have learned the hard way that protecting the sovereignty of nations depends on having more than one supplier of energy. We support your efforts within the European Union to diversify your energy sources, to create more flexible energy markets, and to translate energy innovation into energy security so that no nation can use supplies of energy as a political weapon or a quasi-military weapon against you.

As Ukraine fights for its future, the success of the Baltic nations, your success, paints a picture of what is possible for nations that respect the rights and unleash the talents of their people as both your countries have done.

We are in this with you together. We are absolutely committed. May God bless you and your people, and my God bless our troops. Thank you very much.

END 2:07 P.M. (local)

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### **Ukraine Excerpts from the Daily Press Briefing**

March 19, 2014

QUESTION: First, can you give us what the Administration's line is? Because I don't think the Vice President spoke to it precisely. I may be wrong, but I don't think it had all been – happened yet, but of the – these takeovers of these bases in Crimea by –

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, we strongly condemn Russia's use of force in Crimea. The Russian military is directly responsible for any casualties that its forces, whether they be regular uniformed troops or regulars without insignias, inflict on Ukrainian military members in Crimea. Reports that a Ukrainian military officer was killed yesterday are particularly concerning and fly in the face of President Putin's claim that Russia's military intervention in Crimea has brought security to that part of Ukraine.

And we, of course – I would add the continued efforts by Russian forces to seize Ukrainian military installations are creating a dangerous situation. We condemn such actions. Russia should immediately begin discussions with the Ukrainian Government to ensure the safety of Ukrainian forces in the Crimean region of Ukraine. And diplomacy, in our view, remains the only acceptable means of resolving this crisis.

QUESTION: All right. There was a suggestion made by a rather large number of members of the Duma –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – that the United States should go ahead and impose sanctions on all of them. And I'm just wondering – it seems to be an interesting kind of challenge here, because they basically asking – they're asking you to impose sanctions on them. And one, I want to know, is that something that is even feasible? Could you or do you have any interest in doing it?

And secondly, if you don't do it, how do you defend yourself from the charge that Senator McCain and others – many others – have made that the response is weak?

MS. PSAKI: Well, be careful what you ask for. But our executive orders that have been signed by the President give us broad authority and flexibility to sanction a range of officials, institutions. Obviously, there are a range of options under consideration. I'm not going to get into what we are or aren't considering. You saw seven government officials sanctioned just a couple of days ago. The question at this point is not if we will do more sanctions; it's when.

QUESTION: Right, but I guess I'm not asking you if you're considering it or not. I'm asking you if it's logistically possible to do it. I mean, seven people or eleven people total is one thing –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – but there's several hundred members of the Duma.

MS. PSAKI: I understand that.

QUESTION: You're saying it's – it can be done?

MS. PSAKI: Technically, Matt, I'd have to check with our sanctions team –

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: – but of course, we're considering a range of options. I'm not going to detail them further.

QUESTION: Jen, do you know about any meetings with – there are a group of U.S. businesspeople that have sought some meetings with Defense Secretary Hagel – anything – to express concern about sanctioning – sanctions that would affect them as well – obviously, any transactions with Moscow. Is there anything that the State Department knows about this, and has that group –

MS. PSAKI: About the U.S. businesses?

QUESTION: Have the U.S. businesses expressed concern to the State Department about this?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not aware of this meeting that Secretary Hagel is having. I'm happy to look more deeply into it and see if anyone from here is meeting with them as well. Do you have any idea who the companies are, or –

QUESTION: No. I don't know offhand.

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

QUESTION: But – so nothing's been expressed to the State Department from business – from these businesses?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not familiar with this meeting or anything along those lines, but I can check into it. I'm happy to.

QUESTION: Can you go back to the conversation Secretary Kerry had yesterday with the students?

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: I may be wrong, but it seems to me that he was pretty worried about the crisis with Russia. He used some very strong words like “egregious” against Russia. He made a lot of historic references about the World War II, the Cold War.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So is the Secretary and is the Administration worried about the prospect of a confrontation with Russia about this crisis with Ukraine?

MS. PSAKI: I think what the Secretary's words represented yesterday were a strong concern about the continued escalatory steps that Russia has been taking, the rhetoric that we heard from President Putin yesterday, and the fact that his language didn't match the facts on the ground, and a question about what Russia actually saw and wanted from the future of the region.

But it wasn't – I wouldn't express it in the term of worry as much as there is a shared concern with many of our international partners about their rhetoric, their escalatory steps, and what

they're doing. And I think that's pretty clear, given the responsive steps we've taken, the EU has taken over the past couple of days.

QUESTION: We talked a bit about – in London about the buildup of the forces, the Russian forces on the borders of eastern Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Has the Administration yet seen any move of those forces into the country?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any update on military movements on the ground. Obviously, it's something we're watching closely and we're concerned about any additional step. We spoke a little bit earlier to – in response to Matt's question – about their movements into certain Ukrainian bases. But certainly –

QUESTION: In Crimea, yeah.

MS. PSAKI: In Crimea. Certainly, we're watching it. It's a concern we've expressed directly to the Russians publicly and privately. But I don't have any update in terms of what we're seeing on the ground.

QUESTION: What do you expect from Ban's visit to Russia tomorrow?

MS. PSAKI: From Ban Ki-moon's visit to Russia?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MS. PSAKI: I would point you to the UN for that.

QUESTION: Do you have any expectation or are you sending any message?

MS. PSAKI: I'm sure we'll be in close touch with them, but I don't have any update for you on that.

QUESTION: Jen, has the U.S. noticed any further exercises by Russian forces along – I think it's the north – the northern part, which seem to be aimed at NATO allies? Any – nothing like –

MS. PSAKI: Again, I don't have any updates for you from here on movements on the ground or what we're watching on the ground.

QUESTION: Then there are – there's a letter from a bipartisan group of senators that's just come out asking for international monitors to be placed in eastern and southern Ukraine to monitor the situation.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Would you support that?

MS. PSAKI: Well, we certainly strongly support that. We understand that the OSCE has deployed international experts to conduct a human rights assessment throughout Ukraine. In addition, international representatives are still on the ground in Ukraine at the invitation of the Ukrainian Government under provisions of the OSCE's Vienna Document of Confidence and Security-Building Measures.

We strongly support the Swiss OSCE chair's proposal for a broader OSCE special monitoring mission that can operate throughout Ukraine, and have negotiated in good faith in Vienna to garner consensus for such a mission. As of this morning, 56 participating states agreed to this proposal, including, of course, the United States, and only Russia has objected.

QUESTION: And the OSCE operates by consensus, right?

MS. PSAKI: Right, is my understanding.

QUESTION: So there is no consensus?

MS. PSAKI: Correct.

QUESTION: So there actually aren't any monitors?

MS. PSAKI: Well, they have deployed them. But obviously, because of Russia's opposition –

QUESTION: But they can't do it. They have no mandate, right?

MS. PSAKI: – they haven't been able to do what they need to do on the ground.

QUESTION: I mean, what good are they if they can't do anything?

MS. PSAKI: Well, they would be much more effective if they were able to do their job on the ground.

QUESTION: Not "much more." They would be effective at all.

MS. PSAKI: And if Russia feels as strongly as they do about their concerns about the treatment of minorities, then they should let them in.

QUESTION: I mean, obviously, you're watching this very closely and you must be planning for a wide range of scenarios.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: How likely is it, in the Administration's assessment, that we could see armed conflict between Russian and Ukrainian forces?

MS. PSAKI: I'm certainly not going to make an assessment of that.

QUESTION: But I mean, you can – I mean, it must be something that you're planning for possibly in the back of your mind.

MS. PSAKI: Well, no one wants to see, Jo, as you know, a military escalation in this case. And Russia – President Putin himself has spoken about an end to violence and has spoken about respecting that. Obviously, steps like going into the Ukrainian bases in Crimea fly in the face of that. But I'm not going to make a prediction of what will happen between two countries. Certainly, that's not our hope and that's not what we want to see happen on the ground.

QUESTION: I have two very brief things. Today, President Putin appointed the Secretary's good friend, Foreign Minister Lavrov, to be the rapporteur for the legal entry of – or the legal reunification of Crimea with Russia. I'm wondering: One, do you – well, I only have one question on that. I have a second question. On that, I'm assuming that you don't buy Putin's argument that he made yesterday that this is simply like East and West Germany reunifying and that you would object to the idea that this is reunification?

MS. PSAKI: Yeah, we – of course, we, as you know, objected to every step of this –

QUESTION: Right.

MS. PSAKI: – the referendum, the annexation – so certainly we would object to steps to implement that.

QUESTION: Right. But there – the Russian rhetoric has changed from annexation to, well, this is just reunification, which you have supported in the past with the Germanys, which you presumably support with the Koreas. You don't accept that?

MS. PSAKI: No, we don't.

QUESTION: All right. And then the second thing is that when you were answering the question about the Secretary's comments yesterday, you said something about questions about what Russia actually saw and wanted in the region. What – could you be more specific –

MS. PSAKI: Their motivations.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the Administration did not – the Administration had questions about whether Putin had designs on parts of its – parts of the former Soviet Union?

MS. PSAKI: What we're saying, Matt, and what the Secretary was saying yesterday, is that they say one thing and do another. And so if they say they respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine –

QUESTION: Right.

MS. PSAKI: – their actions don't match with that. So –

QUESTION: Right. So then doesn't it – then how does it make sense for you to take them at word, like, five years ago?

MS. PSAKI: Take – related to Georgia?

QUESTION: Related to any part of the – I mean, if you – there were – you said that it raises questions about what Russia actually saw and wanted in the region. Haven't those questions been answered now?

MS. PSAKI: Well, what I was referring –

QUESTION: That's what I'm getting –

MS. PSAKI: What I was referring to, Matt, is the fact that they say one thing, they do another; that their interests in the region – obviously, they have historical ties and historical backing, as the Secretary said yesterday. But certainly – I don't think we've just been abiding by believing them at their word. We've been watching closely. We've taken steps in response and we'll continue to do that.

QUESTION: One thing, Jen. You said that the Russians say something and do something else. How can you trust them in dealing with Syria?

MS. PSAKI: Well, it's not about trust.

QUESTION: But if they –

MS. PSAKI: Most of these issues are not –

QUESTION: If they say something –

MS. PSAKI: Let me answer your question. This is a case where I think if you ask the Russians, I think they'd pretty clearly tell you they don't want to see chemical weapons living across – not living, but a – chemical weapons across Syria. They worked with us on that end. They agree and they've said publicly they see a political solution and a political end to the crisis in Syria. They're not working with us on Syria, or Iran for that matter, as a favor to the United States. They have their own interests in those regions and seeing an end to that – the conflict in Syria as well as seeing an end to Iran taking steps to acquire a nuclear weapon.

QUESTION: Do you think there will be or there is a chance to find a political solution or a diplomatic solution for the Crimea issue?

MS. PSAKI: Well, for Ukraine, yes, absolutely. That's what we're working toward.

QUESTION: You are working with whom?

MS. PSAKI: With Russia, with our international counterparts around the world. That's part of our process. We think a political solution, a diplomatic – excuse me – solution to this is the only path forward.

QUESTION: Yes, please. And yesterday, you mentioned that – even the day before yesterday – that the Secretary was in touch with Foreign Minister Lavrov. After that criticism that he did at yesterday in the town hall meeting, he – was there was a chance to talk to him or something, or –

MS. PSAKI: He spoke with him yesterday morning.

QUESTION: That's it.

MS. PSAKI: They've been speaking regularly.

QUESTION: But nothing today?

MS. PSAKI: They did not – they have not spoken today.

QUESTION: So I understand that the political-diplomatic solution would be ideal in this case, but so far, diplomacy has failed to yield a result. Sanctions are sort of being shrugged off or laughed off by the Russian side. Is the U.S. considering at all at this point any kind of use of force or threat of use of force to try to get the Russians to back down?

MS. PSAKI: That is not – we're continuing to pursue the political solution – a political solution, which includes a diplomatic solution, political pressure, economic pressure. They're actually – regardless of what is said by any Russian officials, there is a huge economic impact that we're seeing on the ground in Russia, and that is partly in response to the political steps we've taken, but also some of the anticipation of the economic steps. Let me just give you a few examples.

Russian stock indexes lost around 17 percent just a couple of days ago, on March 14th, hitting their lowest level since 2009. Russia's 19 richest people lost \$18.3 billion due to stock market volatility on March 3rd, the first day of trading after the beginning of Russian military intervention in Crimea – that was the day of that. Despite the intervention of the Russian Central Bank, the ruble is at a five-year low against the dollar. More capital has already fled Russia this year than in all of 2013. And finally, forecasts for Russia's 2014 growth rate hover around 1 – under 1 percent. Some even predict a negative growth rate. So we're seeing specifics here. And as I mentioned yesterday, the deputy econ minister said that Russia's economy is in crisis.

So there are impacts. We will see what happens over the coming days, but our focus remains on a diplomatic, on a political, solution.

QUESTION: So in other words, it's not being looked at?

MS. PSAKI: It's not – we are – I just stated what our focus is on.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) from all the statistics you just reeled off that the Administration is pretty happy with itself, pretty chuffed. Is it a gloat-free zone or are you just trying to make your point?

MS. PSAKI: No. Matt, no one is happy with –

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: – having to take steps, but what I am conveying to all of you is that there – we have seen a strong economic impact on the ground. So anyone who states there hasn't been, in Russia or outside, is incorrect.

QUESTION: I think it's not that there hasn't been; it's just whether Putin – President Putin is just willing to soak up the pain, which he seems to be at the moment. There doesn't – none of the – the threatened sanctions and then the sanctions themselves have done nothing to head off his annexation of Crimea.

MS. PSAKI: At the moment, yes. But my point is that there is real economic pain. And if President Putin cares about the economy in his country, cares about the economic impact on the people of his country, cares about his place in the world, then those are all factors that should be looked at. But again, we're looking at this day by day.

QUESTION: But do you seriously think that the Russian – that Russia, the Moscow Duma and President Putin, are now going to renege on their absorption of Crimea? It's written into their law now, isn't – I think, if I'm right, that they've gone that far ahead.

MS. PSAKI: I understand what the steps – the steps that have been taken. But we don't recognize the results of the referendum or the step – the follow-up steps on annexation. Many, many other countries in the world don't recognize it. So this is an ongoing conversation.

QUESTION: Jen, you seem to think that you're able to change Putin's calculus by pointing to his role in the world. He seems pretty happy with his role in the world right now. And when you said he was on the wrong side of history in Syria, that didn't do anything. So I'm just wondering why you still think that he cares.

MS. PSAKI: Well, I can't get into his mind, not that you're asking me to.

QUESTION: I'm not. I just don't understand –

MS. PSAKI: But we do think –

QUESTION: – the U.S. looking at this –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – why the U.S. thinks it was – it would be productive, helpful, or conducive to getting him to see things your way by repeating this over and over again – oh, you're going to be on the wrong side of history; oh, you're going to be isolated internationally – when he's – he doesn't – has not ever, as far as I know, but certainly not in the last several years, shown any inclination that that kind of isolation or that kind of dismissal or loss of any place in the world is going to change his mind.

MS. PSAKI: Well, Matt, we'll see and we'll take it day by day. There are real factual impacts. That was the point I was making.

MS. PSAKI: Let's finish Ukraine, and then we can go. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Can I ask one on Ukraine about the position of China?

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: How do you evaluate their position emphasizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity at the same time abstaining to vote in Security Council and being praised by President Putin?

MS. PSAKI: Well, again, I'm going to let China speak for themselves, but obviously, given China's history, I don't think – we don't anticipate that they're going to get in the middle of the disagreement on this issue between Russia and many other in the international community. I don't have any particular analysis for you, other than to say that the fact that Russia is the – was the only vote against the UN Security Council resolution this weekend, that there are many countries around the world, across Asia as well, lining up against the steps that Russia has taken just shows you how further isolated that they are.

QUESTION: Jen, there are multiple reports that are coming in just now, which I won't expect you to really have an answer –

MS. PSAKI: Okay.

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QUESTION: – but that say that the Crimeans are going to withdraw their troops – I mean – the Crimeans – the Ukrainians are going to draw their – withdraw their troops from Crimea. So far at this briefing, you focused your comments on the Russians –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – or the Russian – I don't – the Russian speakers –

MS. PSAKI: Aggression?

QUESTION: – the Russian – no, the Russian – the guys with guns who speak Russian and you think are operating under the Kremlin's aegis. Is this move – would a Ukrainian withdraw from Crimea be – what do you think of that? Would that be acceptable, or was that – does that give in to what you say is an illegal annexation?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have all the details on this, so I'm happy to touch base with our team.

QUESTION: Right. Fair enough.

MS. PSAKI: I will say, broadly speaking, the Ukrainians have been very restrained throughout this process. But let me check with them and get more details.

### ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

**З заявою Постійного представника Великобританії при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 19 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі засідання РБ ООН.**

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#### **PM call with Chancellor Merkel**

19 March 2014

The Prime Minister David Cameron spoke to Chancellor Angela Merkel about the EU's response to events in Ukraine.

A Number 10 spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister called Chancellor Merkel earlier this afternoon to discuss the EU's response to events in Ukraine ahead of tomorrow's European Council.

They reiterated that Sunday's referendum in Crimea and Russia's subsequent actions to annex Crimea are both illegal and agreed that the EU should impose further consequences on Russia, building on the travel bans and asset freezes agreed by European foreign ministers on Monday. They also agreed that the EU should keep working with the US and other international partners to de-escalate the situation and to deter Russia from embarking on any more action that could further destabilise Ukraine.

They reaffirmed their support for the Ukrainian government and agreed that the international community should be doing all it can to provide economic assistance to the authorities in Kiev during this difficult time. The Prime Minister looks forward to the signing in Brussels on Friday of the political provisions of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine. A strong and successful Ukraine is in all our interests and will show that efforts to undermine the country's independence and stability will not succeed.

### НІМЕЧЧИНА

#### **Russia violates international law**

**Mar 19, 2014**

Speaking in Berlin, government spokesperson Steffen Seibert has condemned the Russian annexation of Crimea as a "massive intervention in the territorial integrity of Ukraine". The Cabinet also agreed to the signing of certain sections of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

The German government also condemns the signing of a treaty under which Crimea and Sevastopol will become part of the Russian Federation, said Steffen Seibert. "Like the Russian military intervention in Crimea that preceded it, this step is in breach of international law." This is a unilateral drawing of new borders, and thus a massive intervention in the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The German government will naturally not recognise this action of the Russian Federation.

### ***Dangers for coexistence in Europe***

"Russia has set off along an internationally isolated path," said the government spokesperson. It is a path that entails great risks for the coexistence of the states of Europe. The reports of deaths in Crimea in the wake of attacks on Ukrainian military facilities is further evidence of the explosive nature of this action. "We call for moderation on the part of Moscow and the leaders in the Kremlin."

Russia has proved itself to be no partner, endeavouring to help Ukraine achieve stability. Instead, it has ruthlessly exploited the crisis in the neighbouring country.

### ***Association Agreement an important signal***

On Thursday and Friday the European Council will be deliberating on its response to Russian actions, reported Steffen Seibert. During the Council meeting there are also plans to sign the political chapters of the Association Agreement between the EU, its member states and Ukraine. The German Cabinet approved the signing on Wednesday.

"We believe that this is an important signal of the EU's support for Ukraine," underscored Steffen Seibert. It is, however, also a clear signal to Russia. "The EU does not accept moves to use economic, political and military pressure to influence the foreign-policy decisions of other states." The signing of the agreement with the EU does not, however, mean that Ukraine may not have close relations with other neighbouring states in future.

Over and above this, the European Commission is aiming to approve a unilateral easing of trade restrictions for Ukraine by mid-April. The trade-policy chapters of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement are to be signed at a later date.

### ***Preventing the crisis spreading***

In this new situation too, the priority must be to avoid any further escalation, said the government spokesperson. "If the crisis were to spread to eastern and southern Ukraine, the consequences could be dramatic." On Tuesday US President Barack Obama and the Chancellor agreed that they were willing to continue to take the path of political dialogue and understanding. To this end a large OSCE observer mission must urgently be deployed, in particular in eastern and southern Ukraine, said Steffen Seibert. "We are working intensively to bring this about." It is most regrettable that Russia is continuing to delay any joint decision on the part of the OSCE.

### ***No parallels to German reunification***

The government spokesperson rejected as "quite astonishing" the comparison that Russian President Vladimir Putin has made, between the annexation of Crimea and German reunification. Germany has not forgotten that the then Soviet Union did not stand in the way of reunification. But, "German reunification brought two divided states together once again to form one nation. Russia's intervention has split Ukraine."

German reunification was also monitored and supported in an exemplary way by the international community, through the 2+4 process. Moscow has consistently rejected all moves to set up a contact group with the aim of discussing the autonomy rights of Crimea. For these reasons the German government sees no parallels between the peaceful reunification of Germany and the events in Crimea.

### ***G7 meeting planned in The Hague***

Steffen Seibert confirmed that preparations are underway for a meeting of the G7 heads of state and government on the side-lines of the Nuclear Security Summit next weekend in The Hague. G7 leaders will be coordinating further actions. Steffen Seibert stressed, however that this meeting is not a summit meeting and is not intended to replace a summit meeting.

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**Speech by Foreign Minister Steinmeier at the meeting of members of the German-Russian Forum, Berlin**

19 March 2014

*– Translation of advance text –*

Mr von Studnitz,  
Mr Platzeck, my dear friend Matthias,  
Ms Nemirovskaya,  
Members of the Steering Committee of the Petersburg Dialogue,  
Governor Morosov,  
Members of the German-Russian Forum,  
Distinguished guests,

It was with great pleasure that I accepted this invitation to address you. Unfortunately, in the light of current events I do not believe that my speech will be too upbeat.

I am delighted to be here – even if I, just like everyone else here today – would have wished a different political environment for this event. The last few days and weeks have been difficult and I fear that the coming weeks and months, perhaps even years, will continue to be difficult. Especially during trying times, we need people who care about relations between these two countries – and I know that many of them are members of the German-Russian Forum.

**You – and especially I – could not have imagined that almost 70 years after the end of the Second World War and 25 years after the end of the Cold War, we would be facing a new division in Europe which could only lead to a breakdown in communication, misunderstandings and new conflicts. In the light of our difficult shared history, we – Germans and Russians – must never allow that to happen again!**

The German-Russian Forum believes that it has a historical responsibility. Its role has always been to foster understanding between our two peoples. Mr von Studnitz, you have made an important contribution towards this during the last 11 years. I recall many encounters during these 11 years, much joint work – often work in the face of considerable scepticism among the public – ups and downs, as well as the fact that people in our countries have moved closer together. Under your chairmanship, this German-Russian Forum has played a crucial part in this. Allow me to name the German-Russian Social Forum as one example, a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences in the social sector, which, Mr von Studnitz, you initiated in 2011. I am certain that you will continue to work hard to promote German-Russian understanding, even if you are now handing over the baton to Matthias Platzeck.

Matthias, you are taking on this task at a truly difficult time. However, I cannot think of anyone better suited to steering the Forum through the troubled waters ahead. You have been familiar with Russia, its people and its culture for a long time. You are prepared to engage with this country without ignoring, let alone talking down the problems. You have a clear view not only of the differences between Russia and us but also of what links us. At the same time, however, you set great store by nuances and you understand them. That will be crucial in the time ahead. In the interest of us all, I hope that you will succeed at the helm of the German-Russian Forum in overcoming the now more pronounced dividing lines between us – those which we believed were a thing of the past as well as new ones which have emerged in the last few weeks.

But before we examine those matters which are making our work more difficult at present, we come now to the pleasant part of this event: this evening we are presenting the Dr Friedrich Joseph Haass Award to Elena Nemirovskaya.

Ms Nemirovskaya, you established the Moscow School of Political Studies, now known as the Moscow School of Civic Education, in 1992. Immediately after the demise of the Soviet Union, you did pioneering work for a democratic and critical culture of debate in your country. To date, more than 20,000 Russians have taken part in your programmes. Your commitment, your

courage and your pragmatism, often under difficult political conditions, have helped ensure that today there are many people – especially young people – in Russia who look to the world with a free and open mind and discuss frankly. For that, you deserve not only great recognition but also the thanks of each and every one of us.

The Moscow School of Political Studies and the German-Russian Forum: both were established a little over 20 years ago, not long after the fall of the Berlin Wall, as a new spirit of optimism swept through Europe. Today, this spirit has vanished. The current general mood is quite the opposite: Right now, Europe is experiencing a crisis that can certainly be called the most severe since the end of the Cold War. At stake is nothing less than a key building block of the foundation of European peace. If we do not pay very close attention, we risk losing the progress our societies have achieved and enjoyed since the end of the East-West conflict.

I will posit that, during the past 25 years, stakeholders on both sides – in Russia and in Germany, in Russia and within the EU – have not always chosen the right course of action. We have not avoided making mistakes. However, this cannot be used as a justification. One thing must be clear: The attempt to redraw borders seven decades after the end of the Second World War is in violation of international law, and the political consequences – also for a multi-ethnic state such as Russia – have not yet fully emerged. This attempt opens Pandora's box, and it sets a dreadfully bad example. Ultimately, it may even encourage present-day borders to be called into question. During my travels in recent weeks, for example to Hungary and to the Baltic region, one thing became vividly clear, and the *angst* was genuine: **What happened in Crimea has awakened bad memories and is fuelling new fear among Russia's neighbours.**

**I think that Russia cannot ignore this – just like we cannot ignore the fact that Russia has always had, and always will have, a special relationship with Ukraine. Russia has very close ties with Ukraine, closer than many in the West have been willing to admit. When looking at history, traditions, language, or economic and cultural ties: Russian aspects in this country are manifold and run deep.**

**And it can certainly not be taken for granted that, last week, none other than the US Secretary of State – in the middle of the conflict, at the height of efforts to find a political solution – said to his Russian counterpart: 'Although we cannot accept your actions, we see the interests you hold with regard to Ukraine'.**

**It is the same understanding that, six years ago, in my speech at the University of Kyiv, motivated me to say: It is wrong, both for Russia and for the West, to force Ukraine to make an "either-or" decision, between the East and the West. That is not in keeping with the history of this country. This way of thinking will not hold in a world that no longer functions according to the geopolitical categories of the 20th century.**

The Cold War is over, and 21st-century logic is based on cooperation, not on confrontation. The reasoning underlying the Helsinki process implies that no single country, and this includes Russia, may launch a military intervention to protect its minority populations in another country. So this is really a step backwards. To provide precisely such protection – the protection this action supposedly aims to achieve – we have jointly developed various instruments, including the OSCE and the Council of Europe. All of us are members of these bodies: Russia, Germany and Ukraine.

During the past three weeks, I have made every effort to abide by the spirit of Helsinki. We did not fool ourselves – neither about the dimension of the conflict nor about the determination of Russia's leadership. However, we remained fully convinced that everything possible must be done to prevent the emergence of an even greater conflict – because we know how much is at stake. And we repeatedly told Moscow that Russia is putting itself at greatest risk if, through its actions, it continues down the path of political and economic isolation.

These fears, and knowing what is at stake, are behind our choice to remain fully engaged with a view to finding political solutions.

We chose to persistently seek political solutions, rather than to issue loudmouthed, albeit ineffective statements. We accepted that our diplomatic efforts may miss the mark, taking the

risk that we may be seen to fail in public. This was a difficult choice to make, and it does expose us to criticism.

Nevertheless, it is the only way that we can live up to our responsibility. I for one could never forgive myself if we did not seek out and use every diplomatic tool at our disposal, for as long as possible, with a view to finding a solution.

This holds true even in the current situation, in which we must admit that we have not yet reached our goal. The Russian leadership was too determined to separate Crimea from Ukraine. From their perspective, it mattered little that this action was unanimously criticised both in the UN Security Council and in the Council of Europe, and that Russia has been isolated.

**As foreign ministers of the European Union, we had to react. We did so on Monday. To the greatest possible extent, I campaigned for a course of action that was both resolute and wise.**

**These days, my position, and the German foreign policy position, is as follows:**

**First, our message must be absolutely clear, without any ambiguity! Our Russian counterparts must understand how we view Russia's policy. And they must also know that, in our assessment, Sunday's referendum is not in line with the Ukrainian constitution, and that the active pursuit of Crimea's secession from Ukraine violates international law.**

**Second, Europe must stand as one and issue a common reply. Russia knows that, if splits were to arise within Europe on such a key issue, this would put an end to Europe's common foreign policy before it ever began.**

**Third, possible reactions may include measures that – although harming us – would demonstrate that we cannot accept the continuation of a policy that divides and splits up Ukraine, or that seeks to transpose the action taken in Crimea to other countries in Eastern Europe. Do not be mistaken: If Russia were to pursue this foreign policy, we would support taking strong action, even if this were to bring economic disadvantages for us.**

But that does not need to happen!

Imposing sanctions is not an end in itself, and isolation does not constitute a policy!

That is why our position at this difficult time also includes the following: not letting us be driven by expectations communicated in the media, or allowing us to be steered by emotions. As difficult as it may seem, we must stay level-headed and give thought to the possible consequences of our actions, by approaching this conflict from the potential outcome.

Anyone doing so will realise that, given the tense situation, we must avoid automatism and dead ends. They will realise that, even when a conflict escalates, **an exit to this vicious circle must always be possible. We must ensure that this option remains open.**

My efforts are not driven by illusion, as one could read in a large German Sunday paper last weekend. Rather, I am motivated by the conviction that we must not let the cooperative, peaceful European order that we have achieved and nourished fall victim again to confrontational, 19th century logic. That is why the diplomatic efforts undertaken in Paris, Rome, Geneva, Berne, London, Brussels and everywhere else with the aim of de-escalating the situation have not been in vain, but absolutely justified – even though they did not bring about the success we were hoping for.

**My conclusion is the following: Russia now bears great responsibility! A visible sign that there will be no further escalation is long overdue.**

**We need a statement by Vladimir Putin that he is against any splitting of Ukraine – an unmistakable message to that effect was lacking in the speech he gave yesterday in the Kremlin. There must be a clear declaration that Russia has no territorial interests beyond Crimea. (!)**

**The Russian president must not only say this, but also deliver proof – by agreeing to the sending of an OSCE mission to Ukraine. We need an observer mission for all of Ukraine, above all in parts of the country that the international community is currently concerned about, in the east and the south. That is the only way the international community, including Russia, can monitor developments and not lose control of the situation. We need**

**this mission right now – within the next 24 hours. Only if it is sent immediately can it prevent a turn for the worse. In two or three weeks it would be too late, the situation may have deteriorated by then.**

**Second – and this is not a request, but what I expect: Russia must work together with the EU to stabilise Ukraine's economy. Stabilisation is of course in the interest of all Ukrainians. But it is also in our own interest, in the interest of Europe and Russia! The European Commission and the IMF are currently preparing financial assistance. Joint action with Russia would be very important, and would send a meaningful signal.**

**We, for our part, must do what we can to ensure that the principles contained in the 21 February agreement become part of Ukrainian policy.**

Here, too, we are not under any illusions. The country faces enormous political and economic challenges: rampant corruption, massive structural deficiencies – all this can only be solved within the course of a generation.

**However, we have clear expectations of Ukraine: First, the government in Kyiv must gear its policy toward all regions of Ukraine. Second, it must seriously set to work on drafting a new constitution. Third, all sides must join in the effort to fully investigate the crimes that were committed on the Maidan. Fourth, the government must clearly distance itself from extremist groups. These are the benchmarks which any future Ukrainian leadership must meet.**

Without a doubt, Russian-European relations, and Russian-German relations, are in a deep crisis. Rifts that for many years we believed had been closed are opening up again. Let me assure you: That is not what we want! This is why EU sanctions have intentionally been designed to keep the door open for political solutions.

But it is time for Russia to send a signal – right now! This must be done to keep the situation from further escalating, and from reaching a point of no return.

**I remain deeply convinced that security in and for Europe can only be achieved jointly with, and not against, Russia. This still holds true, despite the current crisis. The aim of a common space, from Lisbon to Vladivostok, remains the right one. In recent weeks, it has become far more elusive than I would have liked. But I believe that in Russia, too, many people still share this wish.**

**In the near future, relations at a high political level will remain strained by the Ukraine conflict. No matter how hard we try, this problem will be in our midst, and neither side will be able to return to business as usual.**

However, people in both our countries – and this is the impression I have gained from many letters that have reached me – are afraid of Russia and Germany drifting apart. What is more: They do not want our hard-won rapprochement to be lost. We have managed to learn so much about one another, about each other's history, culture, views and prejudices. Ties have been nurtured between Russians and Germans at a very personal level. Our people do not want this progress to erode, or for us to start drifting apart.

That is why we now more than ever need people in our two countries who can build bridges, and help us connect with one another, also in difficult political times. Thank goodness the number of these bridge-builders has increased.

To conclude, therefore, I would simply like to say: Matthias, Mr von Studnitz, Ms Nemirovskaya, distinguished guests:

We need you – more than ever!

## ФРАНЦІЯ

**З заявою Постійного представника Франції при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 19 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.**

19/03/2014 – Paris – Point de presse  
«nous appelons d’abord à la désescalade».

Une discussion sur la situation en Ukraine est prévue à l’occasion du Conseil européen qui se réunit Ukraine:

Q – 1) On parle des premiers morts en Crimée (un soldat ukrainien et un milicien pro-russe). Craignez-vous que cela soit le début d’altercations musclées et meurtrières, et quel conseil donner aux soldats ukrainiens bloqués dans les casernes en Crimée?

2) Le porte-parole de M. Poutine a hier averti que la Russie «ne pourra rester sans réagir» si les populations russes à Kharkov et Donetsk dans l’est ukrainien sont menacées. Il a déjà parlé d’intimidation. Demandez-vous à Kiev de protéger ses populations et que pensez-vous des déclarations du Kremlin à ce sujet?

R – Comme l’a indiqué M. Laurent Fabius ce matin à l’issue de son entretien avec son homologue brésilien à partir de demain.

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**Ukraine – Conférence de presse conjointe de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, avec son homologue brésilien – Propos de M. Fabius (Paris, 19 mars 2014)**

(...) Q – Le président Hollande a parlé hier d’une réponse forte et coordonnée contre la Russie au conseil européen. Quelles sont ces réponses fortes en termes de sanctions et il me semble que nous ayons accepté que la Crimée passe sous la direction russe?

R – La question de l’Ukraine va être abordée à nouveau, dans les jours qui viennent, par les chefs d’États et de gouvernement européens qui se réunissent jeudi et vendredi. De plus, il y aura, au début de la semaine prochaine, une réunion des membres du G7 afin que ceux-ci puissent se concerter. En ce qui concerne l’Europe et la France, vous savez quelle est notre position. À la fois fermeté, puisque nous ne pouvons accepter sans réagir qu’il y ait une violation du droit international, et en même temps, dialogue. Car il faut éviter l’escalade. Nous avons déjà pris un certain nombre de sanctions. La question va être réexaminée jeudi et vendredi prochains durant le Conseil européen. Nous avons fait des propositions pour que le dialogue puisse s’instaurer d’abord entre les Russes et les Ukrainiens, et ensuite avec d’autres pays. Mais la ligne reste fermeté et volonté de dialogue pour empêcher l’escalade. Que souhaitons-nous? Nous devons sanctionner les violations du droit international et de ce point de vue il est clair que le pseudo-référendum a été mené en contradiction avec la constitution ukrainienne et avec les règles internationales, et que l’annexion d’une partie du territoire ukrainien par la Russie est tout à fait contraire au droit. Les raisonnements qui infirment cette position ne tiennent pas. Nous voulons à la fois sanctionner les manquements au droit et, en même temps, trouver des solutions pour empêcher l’escalade.

Q – Est-ce qu’il y a un changement de position par rapport à vos pays en relation avec la réunion des BRIC et le G8?

R – La décision a d’ores-et-déjà été prise de suspendre les travaux préparatifs du G8 qui devait avoir lieu à Sotchi. La question de savoir s’il y aura une annulation et si ce G8 sera remplacé par un G7 va être tranchée dans les prochains jours. Nous avons bien sûr discuté de la question ukrainienne, c’est un point très important aujourd’hui. C’est une situation très complexe. J’ai souligné deux aspects auprès de mon collègue et ami. Le premier point est un aspect juridique. Si on admet sans réagir qu’une partie d’un pays, en l’occurrence la Crimée, puisse organiser un pseudo-référendum, en contradiction avec la Constitution de ce pays et le droit international, et si on admet en plus – ce qui est un autre problème – qu’un pays, en l’occurrence la Russie, puisse annexer une partie d’un autre pays, vous voyez bien le problème international considérable que cela pose. Cela signifie, évidemment, que les frontières ne sont plus respectées et garanties. L’autre aspect dont on a peu parlé jusqu’ici, mais qui nous préoccupe, c’est la question nucléaire. La France et le Brésil sont hostiles à la prolifération nucléaire; c’est un point très important.


Vous savez sans doute que jusque dans les années 90, l'Ukraine était une grande puissance nucléaire. C'était même le troisième pays par ordre d'importance à détenir des armes nucléaires. En 1994, il y a eu un accord, extrêmement positif. L'Ukraine a adhéré au Traité de non-prolifération et, parallèlement, dans le mémorandum de Budapest, l'intégrité de l'Ukraine a été garantie. L'Ukraine a renoncé à ses armes nucléaires et son intégrité a été garantie par trois pays signataires de ce mémorandum: les États-Unis, la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie. Concrètement, cela voulait dire qu'ils abandonnaient leurs armes nucléaires mais leur intégrité devait être garantie. Aujourd'hui, ils ont abandonné leurs armes nucléaires mais l'intégrité n'est pas garantie, comme le prouve le fait qu'une partie de leur territoire a été annexé, et par un des pays qui étaient garants de cette intégrité. Cela nous préoccupe beaucoup parce que nous faisons tous des efforts pour lutter contre la prolifération nucléaire; le fait que de nouveaux États se dotent de l'arme nucléaire est un danger. Si le sentiment est donné qu'un État qui avait des armes nucléaires et qui accepte de les abandonner, non seulement ne voit pas son intégrité garantie mais est amputé d'une partie de son territoire, c'est évidemment une incitation pour les pays qui auraient des armes nucléaires à ne pas les abandonner et, surtout, une incitation pour les autres pays à se dire qu'il faut se doter de l'arme nucléaire pour que notre territoire soit protégé. C'est tout à fait contraire à ce que nous souhaitons au plan international. Cet aspect des choses n'est pas toujours perçu par les observateurs, mais il est très important dans ce conflit.

Q – Un soldat ukrainien a été tué hier. Le gouvernement ukrainien a autorisé l'usage de la force pour se protéger. Que pensez-vous et pouvez-vous faire concrètement afin de diminuer cette menace de confrontation?

R – Nous appelons d'abord à la désescalade. Les européens et notamment la France ont proposé l'envoi d'observateurs de l'OSCE qui est un organisme qui regroupe des pays de l'Union européenne et d'autres pays comme la Russie. Ces observateurs, si leur présence est acceptée, seraient très utiles car ils ont un rôle pour favoriser la désescalade. De plus, nous avons fait des propositions pour qu'il y ait une négociation qui s'ouvre mais cela suppose que les deux parties, Russie et Ukraine, soient présentes. Le Secrétaire général des Nations unies s'est aussi proposé pour aider à résoudre ce conflit. Il faut aussi qu'il y ait des engagements de non utilisation des moyens militaires afin d'éviter l'escalade en Ukraine et dans les pays voisins. La France soutiendra toute initiative permettant le dialogue et la désescalade. Autant nous avons jugé nécessaire de prendre des sanctions par rapport à la violation du droit international, autant nous sommes favorables au dialogue. Je suis en contact avec les Ukrainiens, les Russes et les autres interlocuteurs qui pourraient permettre d'arriver à une solution négociée. Et sur ce point, nous sommes sur une position identique à celle développée par le Brésil, à savoir que la solution ne peut être que diplomatique, et ne peut pas être une solution de force.

## ЯПОНІЯ

**Японія може посилити санкції проти Росії – прем'єр-міністр Японії Сіндзо Абе**

 19 березня 2014, 10:28

**На тлі заяв президента Росії В.Путіна щодо приєднання Криму до Росії С.Абе оголосив на засіданні Парламенту Японії про можливість введення нових санкцій проти РФ**

С.Абе наголосив, що «Японія суворо засуджує дії Росії та неповагу до суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України і розглядає подальші кроки стосовно введення додаткових санкцій».

Японська сторона 18 березня ц.р. разом із США та ЄС оголосила про запровадження санкцій проти Росії. Серед них, зокрема, призупинення переговорів щодо спрощення процедури видачі віз, призупинення двосторонніх переговорів щодо інвестиційної угоди, а також двосторонніх угод щодо мирного використання космосу і запобігання небезпечній військовій діяльності.

## 26 РОЗДІЛ. 19 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

Глава японського Уряду також наголосив на можливості запровадження додаткових санкцій, таких як заборона на в'їзд до країни та заморожування активів деяких громадян Росії.

У промові С.Абе також наголосив, що «Японія ніколи не прийматиме будь-які спроби змінити статус-кво силою. Результати «референдуму» японська сторона, разом із своїми партнерами, не визнає».

Він також заявив про готовність взяти участь наступного тижня в Нідерландах на зустрічі у неформальному саміті лідерів «Великої сімки» для обговорення ситуації навколо України, який США пропонує провести в рамках майбутнього 24-25 березня в Гаазі форуму з ядерної безпеки.

### ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

#### ООН

#### РБ ООН

Засідання РБ ООН від 19 березня 2014 року

**United Nations S/PV.7144**  
**Security Council**  
**Sixty-ninth year**  
**7144th meeting**  
**Wednesday, 19 March 2014, 3 p.m.**  
**New York**  
**Provisional**

President: Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	
Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
Australia	Mr. Quinlan
Chad	Mr. Cherif
Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
France	Mr. Araud
Jordan	Mr. Omaish
Lithuania	Mrs. Murmokaitė
Nigeria	Mr. Sarki
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.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, to participate in this meeting.

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

I wish to welcome the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, and I give him the floor.

**Mr. Eliasson**: My statement today will briefly focus on the continuing efforts of the United Nations with regard to the crisis in Ukraine and the latest developments on Ukraine since the briefing to the Council by Under-Secretary-General Feltman on 13 March (see S/PV.7134).

The Secretary-General is today on his way to Moscow and Kyiv as part of his ongoing and intensified good offices efforts. He will pursue discussions in both capitals on political and diplomatic solutions to the crisis. Ahead of his trip, this morning he spoke to Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatsenyuk.

Since the most recent briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.7134), the Secretary-General has continued to engage with key actors with the aim of de-escalating the situation. He has unfailingly urged dialogue and promoted adherence to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter in relation to Ukraine, such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and ensuring the fulfillment of the human rights of all, with particular attention to minorities.

During my recent mission to Ukraine, I stressed the importance of an inclusive Government and the need to preserve a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual Ukraine with all my interlocutors. As the Council has seen from his public statements, the Secretary-General has repeatedly counseled against hasty actions that could increase tensions and lead to miscalculations and unintended consequences.

My mission to Ukraine was followed by that of Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović. At the request of the Secretary-General, given the volatility of the situation on the ground, Mr. Šimonović extended his visit to Ukraine until yesterday, 18 March.

In the meantime, a United Nations human rights monitoring mission is being deployed in Ukraine in order to provide an objective assessment as to what is happening on the ground. Mr. Šimonović will take the floor after me to brief the Council on his visit to Ukraine and provide further information on the work of the monitoring mission. I can add that the United Nations has closely coordinated our efforts with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in view of OSCE plans to also deploy monitors to Ukraine.

I wish to recall that, during my mission to Ukraine, I briefed the Council on 4 March from Kyiv. I reported encountering a country grappling with a series of fast-moving and serious political, security and economic challenges.

Since that mission, the crisis appears only to have deepened. Instead of de-escalation, tensions in Crimea and in eastern Ukraine continue to rise. The Crimean authorities decided to hold a referendum on Crimea's status on 16 March, after which they announced that close to 97 per cent of those who voted did so in favour of Crimea's secession from Ukraine. The Secretary-General expressed his deep disappointment and concern over the hasty decision to proceed with a referendum with regard to an issue of such far-reaching consequences for Ukraine, the region and beyond. Subsequently, Crimea declared its independence, which in turn was recognized by the Russian Federation.

On 17 March, the European Union and the United States proceeded to apply targeted sanctions against Russian and Crimean officials. On 18 March, President Putin signed a treaty, which the Parliament of the Russian Federation is expected to begin ratifying, in order to make Crimea part of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Government in Kyiv has committed to never accepting Crimea's independence or annexation, stating that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine.

Yesterday, Ukraine's Prime Minister expressed concern that the conflict in the Crimean peninsula was "shifting from a political to a military stage". That followed reports that a Ukrainian officer had been killed in front of a Ukrainian military base on the outskirts of Simferopol.

Following that incident, the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister made plans to travel to Crimea today. In turn, the Crimean leadership has allegedly stated that Ukraine's officials would be turned back. That underscores the dire need for the immediate opening of direct dialogue between Moscow and Kyiv.

Today, reports are emerging that two Ukrainian naval bases in Crimea have been taken over by pro-Russian forces or unidentified groups. While initial reports suggest that the seizure of bases has so far occurred without bloodshed, such developments obviously carry grave risks. The Secretary-General has constantly underlined the importance of avoiding further provocative actions and of refraining from incitement.

Those latest events have heightened tensions and added new layers of complexity to an already precarious situation. We are now faced with risks of a dangerous further escalation that could have ramifications for international peace and security and have serious significance for the Council and for the United Nations.

In a broader perspective, we should recall that the Russian Federation and Ukraine remain neighbours, with close and often complex historic, cultural, economic and political ties. It is our view that it is in the interests of us all that those two nations have positive ties with each other and with the broader region. However, the first step in that direction has to be based on an immediate de-escalation and restraint in the present crisis.

I would like to conclude by quoting some of the Secretary-General's key messages recently:

"It is clear that we are at a crossroads. If positions continue to harden and rhetoric continues to sharpen, there is great risk of a dangerous downward spiral;

"The focus must be to engage in direct dialogue between Moscow and Kyiv, aimed at agreeing on specific measures that will pave the way towards a diplomatic solution;

"Although it has so far proved elusive, the path towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis is still open."

It is in that spirit and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations that he now embarks on his mission to Moscow and Kyiv.

I wish only to add that our primary diplomatic tool is constructive dialogue on the basis of Chapter VI of the Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes. The United Nations will continue to play its role of promoting dialogue for a peaceful and joint resolution of the crisis, which now has become more serious than ever.

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

I now give the floor to Mr. Šimonović.

**Mr. Šimonović**: I thank you, Madam President, for this opportunity to brief the Council on my mission to Ukraine. I joined the Deputy Secretary-General in Kyiv on 9 March at the urgent request of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. My mandate was to make an initial assessment of the human rights situation, to highlight the critical importance of respect for human rights in working towards the de-escalation of tensions, and to make recommendations on the way forward.

I met with individuals from across the cultural, ethnic, linguistic and political spectrums in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv, including legislative and executive officials, the Ombudsperson, civil society organizations representing various communities, including victims of human rights violations, as well as members of regional organizations and the diplomatic community. My team also collected numerous written materials.

I was not able to go to Crimea, as the authorities there initially would not receive the mission or ensure its security. Eventually, on Sunday, I received an invitation to visit Simferopol. I hope that a visit to Crimea, possibly by the head of the United Nations human rights monitoring mission, Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, will soon take place. I also welcome the request made on 19

March by the Independent Expert on the minority issues to visit Ukraine. I hope that the mission will take place as soon as possible and contribute to decreasing tensions.

Chronic human rights violations were among the major reasons for the upheaval in Ukraine in recent months. For many years, there have been concerns about the weak rule of law, the lack of accountability and resulting impunity. The right to a fair trial, equal access to justice, cases of torture, ill-treatment and poor detention conditions are all matters of long-standing concern. The lack of independence of the judiciary must be remedied and the reform of the security sector and of the Prosecutor's Office are also urgent tasks. Corruption is a cross-cutting problem that affects the rule of law, as well as equal access to public services, and also needs to be addressed swiftly. All reforms and new policy measures must be adopted without any spirit of revenge and in a consultative, transparent and inclusive manner. It is crucial to ensure that one does not respond to human rights violations with other human rights violations. In the context of ongoing legislative measures concerning lustration, those must fully respect human rights and the rule of law, including the right to individual review and to appeal.

Let me now move to protest-related violations. In the context of the recent protests in Kyiv and elsewhere, I am deeply concerned about alleged gross human rights violations, including the excessive use of force and extrajudicial killings, torture, disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detentions. The actions of snipers on the Maidan are of particularly grave concern and need to be fully investigated. More than 100 people, mostly protesters, but also some members of the security forces, have also lost their lives and many more were injured. I visited protest-related victims in the hospital. I also spoke to physicians who helped victims in makeshift hospitals, including the current Minister of Health, Mr. Oleh Musiy, and Ms. Olga Bogomolets. All of them confirmed that sniper killings of protesters were undertaken in the style of an execution, in which heads and chests were targeted. The perpetrators of those and other human rights violations against all victims must be promptly brought to justice, whatever their background, status or affiliation, following independent, impartial and thorough investigations.

Let me turn now to the ongoing violations and the way to address them. I have urged all the authorities I encountered to ensure inclusivity in governance and, while ensuring freedom of expression, to curb hate speech. Ukraine is a multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural country. Nationalistic rhetoric and policies will be counterproductive and will further deepen the internal dividing lines within society. All views should be expressed freely in a democracy, as long as their expression does not incite hatred and violence against others. Any attempt to escalate the violence and hatred should be prevented, or stopped when it has occurred, before it escalates into further violence. It is incumbent upon all authorities to ensure equal protection for all, especially for minority groups.

The hasty repeal of the law on languages by Parliament was a mistake. The decision of Parliament was fortunately not approved by the acting President, so that the old law will continue to be in force while a new text is prepared. That process should be done in full consultation with all concerned and be fully participatory, transparent and inclusive.

During my visit, I met with a wide range of representatives of civil society, including with representatives of ethnic Russians. There seem to be some cases where members of the Russian minority have been harassed or even attacked, such as in the case of the attack against a member of Parliament. All allegations of human rights violations, in particular against minorities, have to be thoroughly investigated. However, it seems that those violations are neither widespread nor systematic.

I have serious concerns about the situation in Crimea, which remains tense with respect to the protection of human rights. I have met with victims of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment and other human rights violations. I spoke to representatives of displaced Tatar persons in Lviv, Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Mr. Refat Chubarov, and Mr. Nadir Bekirov, President of the Foundation for Research and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea. I am deeply concerned about the human rights of those who oppose the recent political events in Crimea. It has been reported that a local Crimean Tatar activist who

disappeared after participating in a protest on 3 March was found dead on 16 March in a forest near the town of Belogorsk. According to reports from credible sources, his body bore marks that suggest he had been subjected to mistreatment.

In addition to cases of violence between various political Ukrainian and Russian groups, with the alleged participation of groups from outside of the region, resulting in recent deaths and injuries, the spreading of rumours, including through the media, particularly in eastern Ukraine, is adding to a sense of insecurity among the population. I understand that this is partly due to rumours and perceptions about whether the new authorities in Kyiv would ensure decentralization policies, an inclusive Government and protect and support the use of the Russian language.

There is an urgent need for independent monitors to objectively assess and report on human rights violations, as well as on the implications of recent events and to monitor the current human rights situation throughout the country. An independent, objective establishment of the facts and circumstances surrounding alleged human rights violations can help investigation, can prevent further occurrences and can counter the spread of false information.

We have received a request from the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to dispatch human rights monitors, and we have immediately begun their deployment. The team will be composed of 9 international and approximately 25 national staff. The head of the human rights monitoring mission arrived last week, and others are gradually joining him. By Friday, monitors will be in place in Kharkiv and in Donetsk.

In the roll-out of that mission, we will work very closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has plans for a larger monitoring mission. Both the Deputy Secretary-General and I have maintained close contacts with the OSCE leadership in that regard, and that will be replicated on the ground.

The United Nations stands ready to help ensure human rights are respected and protected in Ukraine with the support of international and regional organizations, including the OSCE, the Council of Europe and others. In addition to monitoring the human rights situation, the United Nations can assist by providing technical assistance for legislative and other reforms necessary to ensure that the recommendations received by Ukraine from United Nations human rights mechanisms are fully implemented so that they can effectively contribute to both peace and development efforts.

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

I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

**Mr. Sergeyev** (Ukraine): I thank the Council for convening this meeting and for inviting me.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to all Council members who addressed my Mission today with words of condolences to the family of the Ukrainian soldier who was killed yesterday after being shot in his neck when a group of gunmen stormed the Ukrainian military base in the north-east of Crimea, in Simferopol. Yesterday our Foreign Minister protested against all hostile and provocative actions of the Russian Federation's armed forces, which caused the death of the Ukrainian soldier.

Today we observed tremendous changes in the situation in Crimea, but unfortunately those changes are not for good. As we have envisaged in other previous statements, the illegitimate referendum on the issue of the annexation of the territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation was conducted in an expedited manner on 16 March. Following immediately after the referendum, on 18 March, the President of the Russian Federation defiantly signed the agreement on its accession to the Russian Federation, which is supposed to be ratified by the Parliament of the Russian Federation on 21 March.

We consider all those acts to be illegitimate and we call upon the entire civilized world not to recognize the illegitimately declared independence of Crimea and its violent dismembering from the territory of the country.

I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights for their important briefings on the situation of human rights in Ukraine. For our part, I would like to say only that the real violation of human rights is taking place on the

territory of the Crimean peninsula, which is currently under the total control of the illegitimate authorities of Crimea.

First of all, there are serious reservations about the expressed free will of the population of that region of Ukraine, because since 26 February, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have, de facto, occupied Crimea. Let me provide the Council with some of the facts of the human rights violations that occurred during the illegal referendum.

Some ballots were distributed to voters who were not registered at the voting site, including nationals of other countries. Russian citizens with a residency permit in Simferopol were able to get a ballot for the referendum and in fact to vote. But those who did not go to polling stations were visited by mobile voting teams, escorted by police, thus forcing people to vote. Journalists were banned, despite having valid credentials.

Additional voters lists included large numbers of citizens who were not qualified to vote. Contrary to existing elections provisions, ballots were issued immediately after submitting a registration application to a supplementary list, without a vote by the Commission members having taken place.

Even the results of the illegal referendum are very doubtful because of the decision made by the Crimean Tartars – who include about 300,000 people – to boycott. Ethnic Ukrainians, who make up about half a million people, and national minority populations in Crimea did not take part in the referendum. The referendum ballots indicated two questions as options, neither of which provided for maintaining the present status as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea; rather, they only referred to accession to the Russian Federation.

The personalities of foreign observers who were invited to Crimea to monitor the referendum raised serious doubts regarding impartiality.

Once again, I would like to emphasize the illegality of the referendum. Even without regard for the laws or sovereign territorial jurisdiction of Ukraine, of which the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is a subject, self-proclaimed authorities in Crimea held a referendum on 16 March that violated not only Ukraine's current legislation but also the fundamental rules of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the Council of Europe and other documents, including of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration regarding the Commonwealth of Independent States.

An abundance of evidence, including photographs and videotaped materials, eyewitness accounts of events, including those of foreign nationals, prove that the conditions of the so-called referendum failed to meet the democratic standards of referendums developed under the framework of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The declaration of independence by the Crimean Republic is a direct consequence of the application of the use of force and threats against Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Given the Russian nuclear power status, the situation is particularly dangerous in terms of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity and for international peace and security in general.

Accordingly, I assert that, on the basis of customary norms and international law, the international community is obliged not to recognize Crimea as a subject of international law, or any situation, treaty or agreement that may arise or be achieved by that territory.

My country expresses its strong and imperative protest against the recognition of the Russian Federation of the self-proclaimed republic, as a matter of international law. Those actions by the Russian side do not meet the international obligations of the Russian Federation in relation to its multilateral and bilateral agreements guaranteeing the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the integrity and inviolability of borders and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The independence of that formation was declared by an illegitimate authority based on the results of the anti-constitutional referendum held under outrageous violations of the democratic standards. Russia's recognition of the self-proclaimed republic of Crimea has one single goal: to create pseudo-legitimate reasons for the annexation of the territory of Ukraine and its incorporation into the Russian Federation.

We are seriously concerned about the security of the ethnic Ukrainians, Ukrainian Tartars,

Karaims and other ethnic groups living in Crimea that have not supported the so-called referendum. Their lives are seriously threatened.

In conclusion, I would like to echo my Council colleagues. Ukraine and the entire civilized world will never recognize the illegitimately declared independence of Crimea and its accession to the Russian Federation.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

**Mr. Araud** (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Eliasson and Mr. Šimonović for their statements, as well as the Permanent Representative of Ukraine for his. This past Saturday, the international community sent a unanimous message to Russia on behalf of the Council, to wit, that the referendum it had instigated in Crimea was illegal and null and void under international law. Russia's veto changed nothing – quite the contrary. The illegal act of separating Crimea, which had been in preparation since a long time, appeared all the more blatant.

Yesterday Crimea was annexed by Russia, despite the picture painted that has fooled no one. The annexation was accompanied by flags, drums and trumpets forming a gathering wave of aggressive nationalism, the future consequences of which, once it is awoken, are unknown; nationalism that never leads to anything good, a nationalism that is used to mask or to justify attempts to suppress civil rights.

Moreover, little effort has been made to hide the use of force. The referendum was hastily organized, Russian soldiers were everywhere. Nothing was left to chance. The media was controlled at the level of describing events, international observers were recruited from among the far-right European parties and if fascists are part of the story, they are certainly not where they are claimed to be. Finally, the final results appeared so excessive that they lost all meaning. How could more than 86 per cent of the people have voted, when some communities – particularly the Crimean Tartars and Ukrainians that represent nearly 14 per cent of the population – had called for a boycott.

The United Nations was created to ensure that one would no longer witness such spectacles which dishonour the organizers and in effect reflect upon the entire international community. The rule of law must guide relations among States. The acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force or even from simple threats is simply unacceptable. That principle that Russia subscribed to in the early days is our code. I would call it the DNA of the Organization. As I stated on Saturday (see S/PV.7138), by voting against the draft resolution, it is the Charter of the United Nations that Russia has in effect vetoed.

We have just heard from Mr. Šimonović that nothing in Ukraine justified references to extremely serious attacks on human rights or minorities placed in critical situations. If any serious human rights violations have occurred, it was during the time of Yanukovich.

At least we are reassured regarding the situation throughout the country. The authorities in Kyiv are endeavoring to extend their hand to all of the various components of Ukrainian society. Nothing will justify in the long-term the current discussion about an irresponsible Government whose actions could lead to fear among its populations.

In terms of the protection of Russian and Russian language populations in Ukraine invoked by Moscow to justify its intervention in Ukraine – it is again clear that it does not correspond to the reality of the situation, nor is it a legal justification of the military occupation of a territory of a sovereign State and it becomes even less relevant when used as a pretext to extend its own borders.

We continue to recall that minorities in Ukraine, including religious and language minorities, must be protected. That falls first and foremost to the transition authorities – and that is what they are doing. The situation in Kyiv, L'viv, Donetsk or Kharkiv should not concern the Council. It is in Sevastopol and Simferopol that the law is being flouted, militiamen terrorize those who will not give in to force, and Ukrainian soldiers are being killed simply because they refuse to surrender.

Faced with a Russia that does not heed the concerns of the international community as a whole and has not even responded to the sensible propositions we have made to peacefully resolve the

crisis, we are forced to respond. All that remains is to make Russia understand that we will never accept the fait accompli that it has just imposed on the ground. But we must also look to the future, with a double call on Russia.

The first is to tell it to stop there. Agents provocateurs are already at work in eastern Ukraine; let them not play the same game as in Crimea; let Russia cease its thinly veiled manoeuvres. It has already succeeded in creating lasting alienation between Ukraine and European countries; to go further would be most grave. The second call regards the need for Moscow to open a channel of direct negotiations with Kyiv. Russia should make no mistake – Ukraine cannot be replaced with something else, as it seems to hope; no one will decide Ukraine's future except Ukraine itself.

We are already counting the first casualties of this grim misadventure. Yesterday, the Ukrainian Prime Minister announced that the conflict with Russia was now moving from a political phase to a military one. We continue to call on Russia to see reason, listen to the voice of the international community, and not drag the international community into a spiral that will sooner or later spin out of control, or at least escape the restraint of the Ukrainians.

**Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria): My delegation thanks Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović for their updates on the recent developments in Ukraine. From the outset, we wish to reiterate the Deputy Secretary-General's observation that the door for dialogue to resolve the crisis in Ukraine is still open, not closed. We hope that all of the parties involved and concerned will take advantage of that.

This is the eighth time in three weeks that the Security Council has met on the situation in Ukraine. This underscores the seriousness with which the Council views the matter and its commitment to addressing issues related to international peace and security. Nigeria has consistently highlighted and stressed the need for dialogue, especially between the parties directly concerned, and for mediation by the rest of the international community to ensure that the situation in Ukraine is resolved peacefully.

We reaffirm our earlier warning that the world has too many challenges to international peace and security to contemplate adding another layer to existing ones. All peaceful means, including mediation, arbitration and dialogue, must be explored and used to the hilt by the parties concerned. Further escalation of the situation with hurtful rhetoric would only lead to grave consequences, including military confrontation, which the world can ill afford, especially when nuclear-weapon States are involved. The world would therefore not want to see any further deterioration in the situation as this could have grave implications, not just for Ukraine, but for the entire region and beyond. The Deputy Secretary-General's report was clear on that point.

With regard to the human rights situation in Ukraine, we welcome the deployment by Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović of a United Nations monitoring team throughout the country to establish the truth or otherwise of alleged human rights violations. Nigeria once again urges all parties to embrace dialogue and negotiation, and to seek a peaceful resolution to the crisis. We call on all concerned to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Yesterday, a truly historic event took place – the reunification of Russia and Crimea, which our peoples have awaited for six decades. In strict compliance with international law and democratic procedure, without outside interference and through a free referendum, the people of Crimea have fulfilled what is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and a great number of fundamental international legal documents – their right to self-determination. They turned to Russia with a request to welcome Crimea into the Russian Federation. Russia as a sovereign State agreed to the Crimean people's request. A treaty to that end has been signed between the Russian Federation and the Crimean Republic on the accession into the Russian Federation of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and the creation within the Russian Federation of two new territorial units.

The results of the referendum were quite clear. More than 82 per cent of voters participated in the voting, more than 96 per cent of whom chose in favour of reunification with Russia. This figure is the expression of the free will of the people of Crimea.

I shall now briefly depart from my text. I was stunned by how the Permanent Representative of Ukraine tried to discredit the referendum by using the arguments of Western propaganda – that those who did not want to vote were visited at home with the police in tow. A few of my Western colleagues may not know this, but my Ukrainian colleagues know very well that this is an old, tried and tested tradition in our elections. If someone cannot vote because they are too ill to come to the polling booth, members of the electoral commission will visit that person at home to afford him or her an opportunity to vote.

But I am going to stick to the topic. I will not dwell on the history of the issue in detail. The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, spelt it out yesterday in a televised appearance with which I trust all present here are familiar. I shall focus on just a few aspects. Today, out of the 2.2 million inhabitants of the Crimean peninsula, close to 1.5 million are Russian; 350,000 are Ukrainians, most of whom consider Russian to be their mother tongue; and between 290,000 and 300,000 are Crimean Tatars, a significant proportion of whom, as shown by the referendum, also favour Russia, regardless of what others elsewhere might have suggested in the run-up to the referendum.

A historic injustice has been righted. It resulted from the arbitrary actions of the leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the time, Nikita Khrushchev, who, with the stroke of a pen in 1954, in violation of constitutional norms, transferred the Russian region of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was then part of the same State. He did so without informing the population of Crimea and without their consent. No one has showed any regard for the views of the Crimeans during the break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Over the years, many citizens and community activists in Crimea have repeatedly raised this issue, stating that Crimea is intrinsically Russian land and that Sevastopol is a Russian city. It is only now that the will and freely expressed choice of the Crimean has been fulfilled.

Of course, we have taken note of the reaction of a number of our Western partners who simply cannot rid themselves of the imperial colonial habits of attempting to impose their writ on other peoples and countries. Now they are nervous as their reckless geopolitical gamble in Ukraine has led to such unexpected results. The people of Crimea have spoken and made their choice, as have the people of Russia, and those choices must be accepted and respected by all.

Let me now turn to the alarming situation in Ukraine and the international assistance provided to it to overcome its pronounced internal crisis. The pseudo-friends of Ukraine need to understand once and for all that the cause of the crisis there lies not with Russia but in the irresponsible actions of individual Ukrainian political forces and their foreign mentors. The attempt to drive Ukraine, like other targeted States of the eastern partnership, to make an artificial choice between the European Union and Russia, largely provoked the deep-seated internal political crisis that led to the unconstitutional changes in Kyiv.

However, Western capitals, it would seem, continue to feel no shame about backing people who are not ready to listen or heed the views of the entire Ukrainian people and who are fully dominated by the ultra-radical, nationalist organizations Right Sector and the Freedom Party, which according to the European Parliament, is anti-Russian, anti-Semitic and xenophobic. And yet, it is with them that the European Union is planning to sign the political section of an association agreement in the near future.

In that respect, we are puzzled by Mr. Šimonović's glib, one-sided assessment of the human rights situation in Ukraine. We are especially puzzled by the fact that Mr. Šimonović referred to the Maidan snipers. Not a word was said about the evidence that provocateurs fired both on the representatives of law and order and on the opposition forces to pave the way for the use of force to seize power.

One simply cannot claim that there has been no politically motivated killing or mass torture; no kidnapping of individuals, no attacks on journalists and human rights defenders; no political detentions. One cannot claim that nationalist radicals, like the Taliban in Afghanistan, are not destroying and profaning historical sites, that there are no chilling racist incidents with anti-

Russian and anti-Semitic undercurrents, backed or at least passed over in silence by those who have seized power in Kyiv. The Kyiv extremists have offered rewards for killing journalists, the self-proclaimed authorities have shut down foreign television stations, foreign correspondents have been denied all access, and they are even trying to scramble the retransmission of satellite signals.

Two scandalous incidents occurred only yesterday. Two dozen members of Parliament and activists of the Freedom Party pushed their way into the Cabinet, and in front of cameras beat up and took away the General Director of the Ukrainian First National television station, who knows where. Who is in authority in Kyiv? Neo-Nazi slogans are heard, Nazi enforcers and their Bandera-loving storm-troopers are glorified, and calls are sent out for violence against Russian-speaking Ukrainians and Russians in general, with all the signs of ethnic cleansing, and for the armed overthrow of the legal authorities. These must all be clear and obvious to anyone claiming to be objective. Instead, supposedly profound concerns are raised about the human rights situation in Crimea. As a result of the combined efforts of the people and the self-defence forces, law and order has been maintained, and Crimean authorities have guaranteed the rights of all minorities, without exception.

In that respect, we would especially like to draw attention to the fact that, pursuant to the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea regarding succession to the Federation, there will be three equal State languages in the Republic: Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean Tatar. Crimeans, with the support of the entire Russian people, are doing all in their power to preserve peace and tranquility in Crimea. No provocation will keep them from doing so, not even such incidents as that which occurred a few days ago in Simferopol, where, in Maidan style, sniper fire from an unfinished building across from the Ukrainian military base killed an unarmed self-defence soldier and a Ukrainian national soldier. The attack by Russian forces on a Ukrainian military facility, to which the Permanent Representative referred today, simply did not take place. It was clearly a planned provocation that was immediately seized on by Mr. Yatsenyuk and Mr. Turchynov to call on the Ukrainian military forces in Ukraine to use their weapons – against whom? Against their fellow countrymen?

Russia stands ready to work in close cooperation with all international partners that are genuinely interested in normalizing the situation in Ukraine on the basis of a broad internal Ukrainian dialogue with the participation of all responsible political forces and all regions. Establishing a multilateral mechanism for the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis could be promoted with our partners through our proposal to create an assistance group for Ukraine. We await responses to our constructive initiative.

We will continue to discuss proposals aimed at fulfilling the agreement of 21 February with the objective of restoring order, launching comprehensive constitutional reform in Ukraine, and putting an end to the provocations of the ultra-nationalist and radical forces against the Russian-speaking population and our fellow countrymen in south-eastern and other parts of Ukraine. To that end, observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe are invited as long as they implement an impartial mandate and mutually agreed modalities for such a deployment in various regions of Ukraine.

**Ms. Power** (United States of America): I wish to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović for their briefings.

The representative of the Russian Federation began his statement extolling the so-called referendum as embodying democratic procedures and having been conducted without outside interference. Russia is known for its literary greatness, and what the Council just heard from the Russian Ambassador showed more imagination than Tolstoy or Chekhov. Russia has decided, it seems, to rewrite its borders, but it cannot rewrite the facts.

The United States rejects Russia's military intervention and land grab in Crimea. Those actions again violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Russia's own binding agreements, international law, the expressed will of most members of the Council and the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Two days ago, President Obama and other world

leaders put in place sanctions in response to Russia's blatant disregard for global opinion and the legal rights of Ukraine. We are prepared to take additional steps if Russian aggression or Russian provocations continue.

In this Chamber, when the crisis began, the Russian Federation described its intervention into Crimea as a human rights protection mission. It claimed that the recent change of Government in Ukraine constituted such a danger to ethnic Russians in Crimea that military action was justified. Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović's briefing once again illustrates that the crisis was never about protecting the rights of ethnic Russians and was always about one country's ambition to redraw its own borders.

Indeed, if there was ever a time to be concerned about human rights in Crimea, it is now. Credible reports indicate that cases of harassment have been directed by Russian allies against ethnic Ukrainians and Tatars. The Tatar community, which constitutes 12 per cent of the population, is rightly fearful of again falling victim to deportation or discrimination. The Crimean First Deputy Prime Minister has recently announced that Crimean Tatars will be evicted from some of their land, which he claimed is needed for "infrastructure projects". The body of Reshat Ahmetov, a Crimean Tatar, was discovered Sunday. He had last been seen at a protest in Simferopol on 3 March. Ahmetov's body reportedly showed signs of torture.

Russian troops are reportedly storming apartment buildings housing Ukrainian troops, border guards, veterans and their families, threatening them and demanding their immediate departure. In addition, we are seriously concerned about activists, civil society leaders, media restrictions and journalists in Crimea. Accordingly, the United States supports the rapid deployment of international observers in all parts of Ukraine. We believe it is instructive that the Government of Ukraine has repeatedly welcomed their deployment, and the Russian Federation has not.

Again today in Vienna, Russia was the lone country to block an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe monitoring mission. There, Russia was dramatically outnumbered. It was the lone dissenting voice out of 57 countries; 56, it seemed, had a different view. Russian officials say that they understand the urgency, but they vote with their feet, relying on their military forces and refusing to allow the deployment of those who could help defuse the crisis and prevent further violence. After hearing my Russian colleague's assault minutes ago on the Assistant Secretary-General's briefing, I see the logic of Russian obstruction. Objective information is inconvenient to the Russian tale. We call on all parties to support these observer missions, including their access to Crimea.

We want to thank members of the Council for taking a strong stance on Russia's intervention in Ukraine and for making it clear that Russia stands alone in its failed, illogical and mendacious attempt to justify actions that cannot be justified. Five days ago, when the Council accurately described the Crimean separatist referendum as invalid, only a single hand rose in opposition. When the Council declared that the referendum could not form the basis for any alteration of the status of Crimea, only a single hand rose in opposition. Now the referendum has taken place, but the national and international legal status of Crimea has not changed. A thief can steal property, but that does not confer the right of ownership on the thief.

In conclusion, let me just emphasize again that what Russia has done is wrong as a matter of law, wrong as a matter of history, wrong as a matter of policy, and dangerous. What happened in Crimea cannot be recognized as valid. We must stand together denying recognition and imposing consequences for that illegal act. In doing so, we must also be very clear that what happened in Crimea cannot be repeated in other parts of Ukraine.

**Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson, Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović and Permanent Representative of Ukraine Sergeyev for their statements.

The Security Council is meeting at a sensitive moment. The 16 March referendum was held in Crimea and has been judged as unconstitutional and has been seen as undermining the territorial integrity of Ukraine, a sovereign State Member of the United Nations. The circumstances around the vote has led to worry in the international community, which questions its legitimacy. The

holding of the referendum has no doubt contributed to the worsening of the situation. Chile would reiterate the need to restore the rule of law and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The death of a Ukrainian soldier in an assault in one of the military barracks in Crimea and the increased tensions in the eastern part of the country reveal an escalation of the crisis that has to be stopped. In that context, we value the briefings of Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Šimonović.

In truth, we are observing a growing deterioration of the situation. Chile believes that it is necessary to broaden the space for a solution through diplomacy. That is why we endorse the efforts of the Organization and, most especially, the efforts being undertaken by the Secretary-General.

Chile regrets that Mr. Šimonović and observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were not allowed to enter Crimea. We call for the actions of the United Nations not to be impeded, with a view to ensuring timely and truthful information in order to be able to assess the human rights situation on the ground. The situation of ethnic minorities in Crimea is of concern for us, especially that of the Tatar minorities, who have started moving to other areas of Ukraine. The existence of internally displaced persons is the clearest sign of a worsening of the crisis. That fact strengthens the call of the international community to seek a negotiated solution.

It is indispensable that the Council contribute to and generate maximum restraint and moderation among both parties. Accordingly, it makes a new appeal for all sides to avoid unilateral actions that might escalate the crisis still further. Now is the time for constructive participation in an inclusive process that would guarantee the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights.

**Mr. Oh Joon** (Republic of Korea): We thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović for their briefings and for the devotion they have shown in their activities taken with respect to Ukraine.

The Republic of Korea is deeply concerned about the recent developments in that country. The Republic of Korea will not recognize the referendum in Crimea nor the annexation of Crimea by Russia. We call on Russia and the Crimean authorities to refrain from further hasty actions. We urge them to immediately enter into meaningful discussions with the Ukrainian Government and the international community, with a view to finding a peaceful political solution.

Implications of any boundary alterations on the existing international order must be fully taken into account. We hope that space exists for a negotiated way forward. In that context, we greatly value the ongoing mediation efforts by the international community, particularly those of the Secretary-General. We look forward to the continued constructive role of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in that regard.

Once again, we reiterate our firm support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine. All the relevant international and bilateral agreements, especially the Charter of the United Nations and the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, must be fully observed. It is also vital that the rights of all persons in Ukraine, especially of minorities, be protected. The future of Ukraine should be considered and decided upon based only upon the will and aspirations of all Ukrainians themselves, without any intervention or influence by outside forces.

**Mrs. Perceval** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I wish to thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović for their respective briefings. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Ukraine for his participation in today's meeting of the Security Council.

Argentina is following with great concern the unfolding of the situation in Ukraine. The delegation of Argentina once again reiterates the fundamental importance of adhering to the principles that we have all subscribed to as Members of the United Nations.

For Argentina, it is essential to respect the primacy of the principle of the territorial integrity,

sovereignty and political independence of all States. Therefore, in speaking in support of the draft resolution that was put to a vote on 15 March, I said that my country had sustained that principle throughout its history, even before the existence of the United Nations, and it will continue steadfastly to do so.

Argentina does not comment on the internal developments in Ukraine that have led to the current institutional crisis in the country because we understand that all countries should refrain from intervening militarily, economically or politically in the internal affairs of other States and should adjust its actions so that they are in strict compliance to international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In that context, we urge that human rights and international humanitarian law be scrupulously observed and that the rights of all minorities – be they ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious – be upheld.

We are concerned about the past violence and the current violence – and the possibility that it might worsen. We regret that, despite repeated calls, the rhetoric of confrontation has not been abandoned in Ukraine. It is incumbent upon all of us to refrain from encouraging dissent or escalating confrontations that could become a threat to international peace and security. Indeed, it is the most influential actors who should be calling for constructive diplomacy.

Finally, we support the mediation efforts that are being undertaken by various United Nations officials, as well as the good offices of the Secretary-General. We understand that this situation cannot be resolved by unilateral acts. We therefore stress that actions that complicate the situation and that lead us further away from a political and peaceful solution to the crisis must be avoided.

**Mr. Gasana** (Rwanda): Thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting on the situation in Ukraine. It shows the seriousness of the situation and the commitment of the Security Council in the quest for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. I also thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Ivan Šimonović for their respective briefings on the political, security and human rights situation in Ukraine.

Rwanda is still concerned about the prevailing rhetoric in Ukraine and the region and the continued demonstrations and violence in the cities of eastern Ukraine. Something needs to be done, and that begins with a commitment from all parties, with a sense of urgency, to resume dialogue, in order to avoid further escalation of the situation.

We continue to commend the role of the United Nations in that regard. We look forward to the visit of the Secretary-General to the Russian Federation and Ukraine, scheduled for tomorrow, 20 March, and we hope that his visit will help all the parties involved and regional organizations to find a political and diplomatic solution that will benefit Ukrainians and all the peoples of the region. We welcome the deployment of a United Nations human rights monitoring team in Ukraine, and we count on all stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the team. We indeed believe that only an independent body will be able to objectively establish the facts on alleged human rights violations.

Rwanda has been calling for constructive efforts to de-escalate the situation, and we continue to advocate for a political and diplomatic solution to the conflict, with the engagement of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Russian Federation at the international level, and for inclusive talks at the national level among all Ukrainian parties that ensure equal participation by all communities in the country while protecting minorities. In the meantime, we call on all Ukrainian parties to respect the rule of law and exercise maximum restraint. We urge the regional and international actors to avoid any diplomatic, economic, political or even military move that would further escalate the situation.

In conclusion, let me stress that the Security Council, which is the world's only body in charge of the maintenance of international peace and security, must work towards restoring its own unity, in order to be able to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a United Nations State Member while addressing the interests of all the countries of the region.

**Mr. Quinlan** (Australia): I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his briefing and Assistant

Secretary-General Šimonović for his statement. I also thank Ukraine Ambassador Sergeyev.

As we know, five days ago, the Council sought to adopt a draft resolution on Ukraine reaffirming fundamental principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. The draft resolution was opposed by only one State: Russia. The message of Council members to Russia, reflecting the views of the broader international community, nevertheless, remains clear. It must comply with international law, take active steps to de-escalate the crisis and engage in dialogue towards a peaceful resolution of it.

But the fact is that Russia has steadfastly ignored that message. It has moved to annex Crimea on the basis of a referendum that was manifestly unlawful and illegitimate, not least because it was carried out while Russian forces exercised effective control over Crimea. President Putin's signature of a decree recognizing Crimean independence and of a purported treaty with Crimean leaders and the presidential approval of a draft bill on the annexation of Crimea do not validate the referendum, nor do they provide any legitimate basis for Russia's acquisition of part of the territory of Ukraine. Indeed, Russia's actions are a clear violation of the fundamental principles of international law, which were contained in the draft resolution it vetoed on Saturday: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the illegality of the acquisition of territory by the threat or use of force. Those remain the international community's touchstone, and the international community will not recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Russia has further strengthened its military control of Crimea in recent days, dramatically escalating tensions. Incidents involving the use of armed force, the occupation of military bases and the killing of a Ukrainian soldier and the wounding of another significantly increase the stakes and make a descent into conflict more likely.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatsenyuk has sought an immediate meeting of Ministers of Defence of the parties to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which provided security guarantees to Ukraine, in order to prevent further escalation of the crisis, and we urge Russia to respond positively to that request. He has sent Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister and the Acting Defence Minister to Crimea to de-escalate the crisis. It is crucial that that direct dialogue take place.

The Secretary-General's travel to Moscow and Kyiv over the next few days is clearly welcome, and we urge all parties to engage in constructive dialogue with him.

In pursuing its current course of action, Russia has chosen a path towards isolation. In doing so, it undermines its own standing, credibility and relations with other States and increasingly poses a threat to security and stability in the region. Inevitably, there are consequences for its unlawful action. In addition to measures put in place by others, the Australian Government announced, on 19 March, that it would impose targeted measures against individuals who have been instrumental in the Russian threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We have not taken those steps lightly and have done so with regret, only after repeatedly urging Russia to de-escalate and engage in diplomatic dialogue to resolve the crisis.

An important first step for Russia will be to recognize the need for and support the deployment of monitors on the ground. We encourage Russia to engage constructively in support of an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitoring mission to Ukraine. Such a mission should be deployed as a matter of priority.

Given the allegations raised by Russia about serious infringement of the human rights of Russian speakers in Crimea and elsewhere in Ukraine, it is obviously important that those allegations continue to be independently assessed, especially as the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities found no evidence of violations or threats to Russian speakers in Crimea during her recent visit. As Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović has just reported to us, the violations he has learned of are neither widespread nor systematic. On the other hand, Crimea's Tatar community clearly feel threatened. Mr. Šimonović has noted there are credible reports that a Tatar activist has been tortured and murdered. There are also reports that Ukrainian civil society activists have been abducted. Those violations must cease. Ongoing human rights monitoring is essential, and we welcome the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights team that is already being done and their continued deployment, but such monitoring must also take place in Crimea.

In conclusion, we are obviously at a critical point for Ukraine and the region and for the integrity of the rules-based international order itself. All Member States have a direct interest in the preservation of that order.

As the Deputy Secretary-General has underlined again today, the crisis must be resolved peacefully through diplomatic means and direct dialogue. Such a resolution must respect Ukraine's unity and territorial integrity. It is up to Russia to commit to finding such a solution. It is not too late for it to turn from the deliberate path of provocation and isolation that it has taken.

**Mr. Liu Jieyi** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović for their respective briefings. China has been closely following developments in the situation in Ukraine.

The Security Council has repeatedly taken up the question of Ukraine. China has explicitly stated its principled position on the issues concerned. Respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is China's consistent position. China has taken a fair and impartial approach in addressing the question of Ukraine. We will continue to promote peaceful dialogue and to play a more constructive role in seeking a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. China has put forward the following proposals in order to address the Ukrainian crisis.

An international coordinating mechanism comprising all parties concerned should be established as soon as possible in order to explore political ways to address the situation in Ukraine. In the meantime, all parties should refrain from taking any action that may further exacerbate tensions. International financial institutions should start to explore various possibilities to help Ukraine maintain its economic and financial stability. In our view, a political solution to the Crimean issue should be found within the framework of law and order.

All parties concerned should exercise restraint and refrain from any action that could cause the situation to further deteriorate. The international community should make constructive efforts to defuse tension.

China supports today's trip by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the countries concerned to conduct mediation. China hopes that the international community will continue to make constructive efforts to defuse tension.

**Sir Mark Lyall Grant** (United Kingdom): I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his briefing. We welcome the Secretary-General's intent to travel to Moscow and Kyiv this week. We hope that his visit will help to persuade President Putin to step back, to de-escalate the situation, to fulfil Russia's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, to allow the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations monitors full access to Crimea, and to engage in dialogue with Ukraine.

We also thank Mr. Šimonović for his briefing. It is inexcusable that he was denied access to Crimea, but we applaud his efforts to gather information from the peninsula via other means. His report on the extent of human rights violations in Crimea is of serious concern. Cases of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment, disappearances and population displacements directly contradict Russia's claims to the contrary.

We share Mr. Šimonović's concerns about the gross human rights violations that took place under the previous Ukrainian Government. In that context, we welcome the new Ukrainian Government's request for United Nations monitors to investigate those concerns and its commitment to reflect Ukraine's rich linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity. We urge the rapid deployment of the United Nations monitors across the country.

Last Saturday, 14 Council members underlined their commitment to Ukraine's unity and territorial integrity (see S/PV.7138). Russia was urged to distance itself from the referendum set to take place the next day in Crimea. Our aim was to avoid further escalation and to ask Russia to heed the views of the international community.

Russia has rejected that message. It rejected it on Saturday by vetoing a draft resolution that carried the overwhelming support of the Council. Yesterday, following the referendum, it

underlined its disregard for our appeals for calm and for de-escalation by announcing new laws to incorporate Crimea into the Russian Federation. The Permanent Representative of Russia spoke about that process being in compliance with international law, without outside interference and through a democratic process. It is hard to know which of those three assertions is the biggest lie.

Sunday's referendum was a mockery of democratic practice. It was illegal under the Ukrainian Constitution, arranged at 10 days' notice, met none of the OSCE standards for democratic elections, was held under Russian military occupation and gave the people of Crimea no option to vote for the status quo. Neither the referendum nor the succession of increasingly desperate, contradictory and inconsistent legal arguments put forward by Russia can conceal the stark reality of that country's actions. Russia has annexed part of the sovereign territory of an independent State Member of the United Nations through the use of military force.

Russia claims not to be bound by any of its previous obligations and commitments in respect of Ukraine, including the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, on the grounds that it does not regard the new Government in Ukraine as legitimate. However, treaties and international agreements are between States, not Governments. A change in Government in Kyiv does not absolve Russia from its international obligations and commitments. We are witnessing the illegal behaviour of a large country bullying its neighbours, disregarding international norms and unilaterally adjusting internationally recognized borders to its own advantage.

Yesterday, in his speech to the Federation Council, President Putin said: "In the hearts and conscience of the people, Crimea has always been, and remains, an inalienable part of Russia". He went on to add that, because Crimea was a strategic territory, it needed to be under the strong and stable sovereignty of Russia. Now, at last, after weeks of denial, Russia's real motives for its military adventurism have been admitted. There are plenty of lessons from history about where that kind of extraordinary logic leads. One only has to think back to the 1930s to recognize the dangers of a complacent international response when such behaviour occurs.

The United Nations system and the framework of international norms that it embodies were the response of our forefathers to a global conflict that resulted from lawless aggression. The United Nations was designed to provide security to us all by preventing the subjugation of any State. We all therefore have an interest in upholding the international framework and norms that the United Nations represents. Russian actions throw into doubt the credibility of that international order. That is why they should be clearly condemned and why Russia must now face further consequences for its actions.

Russia cannot be granted the impunity to disregard international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Even at this late stage, Russia has the option to change course, to heed the message of the international community and to engage in dialogue with Ukraine. Last week, in the Council, we all heard the Ukrainian Prime Minister offer to open up such a dialogue with Russia (see S/PV.7134). Yet, so far, even that basic step has been rejected.

The situation in Ukraine and the region is serious. Yesterday, another threshold was passed when a Ukrainian serviceman was killed during the storming of a Ukrainian military compound in Crimea by forces aligned with Russia. There are credible reports of Russian-inspired provocations across eastern and southern Ukraine. We praise the continuing and remarkable restraint of the Ukrainian military. However, such actions only underline how close we are to a further dramatic escalation.

The issue extends far beyond Ukraine's imperilled borders. The issue before us is about respect for bilateral and international treaties. It is about upholding the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Those are the frameworks on which we all rely and that Russia is challenging. We have a collective responsibility to defend everything that we have worked so hard to build over the past 70 years.

**Ms. Murmokaitė** (Lithuania): I, too, would like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and Assistant Secretary-General Šimonović for their briefings and our colleague from Ukraine for his statement.

Last Sunday, a hastily crafted illegal referendum took place in Ukraine's Crimea – a referendum held in a region cut off from its mainland and the rest of the world by another country's armed forces and under a heavy barrage of aggressive anti-Ukrainian propaganda.

Representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and key United Nations national and regional organizations with outstanding experience in human rights monitoring and the organization and observation of elections were all prevented from entering Crimea. The plebiscite was organized in a record short period of time, probably a first in the practice of referendums, without nationwide preparations or consultations. Not a single credible international observer was present to verify and ascertain that this hurried referendum was free and fair. Those facts alone are sufficient to raise alarms about the quality of the referendum and its fraudulence.

At the same time, notably while representatives of major international organizations, monitors and observers were prevented from entering Crimea, more than 100 so-called “independent referendum observers”, as our French colleague has stated, who were well-established hard-line nationalists, Nazi sympathizers, deniers of the Holocaust, anti-semites, deniers of the massacre of Srebrenica and Islamophobes – hardly a company to keep for those who claim to protect Europe, Ukraine and Crimea from fascism – were able to observe and to ascertain that allegedly the referendum was fine and fair.

The indigenous Tatar population, for whom Crimea is the only place on Earth they can call home and whose massive deportation by Stalin in cattle cars is still very much alive in their collective memory, called to boycott the election as contrary to their desire to be an integral part of Ukraine. How about their right to self-determination?

The so-called referendum is nothing but an undisguised land grab and a blatant violation by Russia of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments. A country which should have been a guarantor of Ukraine's sovereignty, as per the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, breached its legal responsibility towards Ukraine to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for its renunciation of nuclear weapons. How does that bode for the non-proliferation regime?

Sunday's referendum is nothing else but a fraudulent sham whose sole purpose was to rubber-stamp the illegal annexation of a part of Ukraine. As such, it cannot be recognized by the international community. Lithuania once again calls on all States to reject that act, not to recognize the illegal joining of a part of the territory of sovereign Ukraine to the Russian Federation and to reaffirm their support for the principles of the United Nations Charter and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

How deeply ironic is the fact that, carried out under the false pretext of protecting human and minority rights, the aggression against Crimea is carried out by pro-Russian militants with Moscow's support, causing serious and repeated human rights violations against the Crimean population through incitement against Ukrainians, extreme censorship, shutting down media outlets and press hubs, cases of arbitrary arrest, detention and enforced disappearances, routine attacks against journalists, vandalism, beatings and other ill-treatment?

Furthermore, the outcome of the referendum and the rushed admittance of Crimea into the Russian fold will further infringe upon the rights of large numbers of Crimea's inhabitants, who will be forced to make heart-rending choices regarding their loyalty to the Ukrainian State and their citizenship, with serious consequences for their families, their property rights and their future.

One country appropriating at will a part of a neighbouring country is a profoundly disturbing signal to everyone that, once again, territories are up for grabs and that the international norms guaranteeing the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of States can be rewritten by force. Who will be next?

**Mr. Omaish** (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Jordan would like to express its concerns following the events of the crisis in Ukraine, especially in Crimea, given the fact that efforts undertaken to achieve a peaceful solution have unfortunately not yet been successful. We would like to

reiterate the need to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine, its territorial integrity and its political independence.

All territories and regions of Ukraine, including Crimea, fall under Ukrainian sovereignty. That fact is recognized by the international community and established by international law and, of course, the Charter of the United Nations, which is further complemented by relevant international treaties, such as the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997.

We wish to reaffirm the fact that the instrument that governs all regions and parts of Ukraine's territory is the Constitution, which guarantees its territorial integrity and unity throughout all regions and parts of the country. That is why it is simply unacceptable to split off a part of its territory and have another country annex it. The international community should spare no effort to tackle the crisis and to encourage the parties to reach a solution that would protect their legitimate interests and rights, which would result, of course, in a return of Crimea to Ukrainian control.

There is also a need to establish the necessary guarantees to protect the interests of the various sides. If ever an agreement were to be concluded to put an end to the crisis, it should include guarantees of minorities' rights in Ukraine. We urge the United Nations to use its good offices to reconcile the positions of the two parties and to come up with a mechanism that would enable us to initiate dialogue and make progress.

Clearly, the time has come to set up an international contact group to achieve that objective, to work with all parties on the ground and to cooperate with the various monitoring and observation groups, which could be deployed to verify the situation throughout all regions in Ukraine, including Crimea. The various parties to the crisis should refrain from actions that would lead to escalation. They should give pride of place to reconciliation, common sense and logic, and work with international organizations within the framework of the existing forums. Such an effort would spare the world from the negative consequences of the crisis and its impact on international peace and security.

**Mr. Cherif** (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Mr. Eliasson and Mr. Šimonović for their briefings. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Ukraine for his statement.

Chad is alarmed by what is taking place in Ukraine, including in Crimea. We note with a great deal of concern that, despite the repeated calls by the international community, in particular the Security Council, the undermining of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine continues.

We reaffirm once again that we are committed to the unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and we urge all parties to comply with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including Article 2. We ask all the relevant parties to give pride of place to a peaceful settlement. We support the good offices of the Secretary-General aimed at forging direct dialogue between the two parties to achieve a political solution.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Luxembourg.

I thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, for their briefings. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, for his statement.

It cannot be emphasized enough – the referendum held on 16 March in the Crimea violated the Constitution of Ukraine, which provides that the territory of Ukraine is indivisible and inviolable. In addition, the election was held in conditions that forfeited all legitimacy. Crimea was occupied and cut off from the rest of Ukraine, journalists and members of civil society were intimidated, and media freedom was severely hampered. Representatives of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) who had been invited by the Ukrainian Government were denied access to the Crimea.

The international community in no way recognizes the result of this illegal and unconstitutional

referendum. Similarly, the international community does not recognize any measure to integrate the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea within the Russian Federation via the referendum. We welcome the very broad convergence of views on this issue in the Security Council.

Russia's actions on Ukrainian territory over the past three weeks flagrantly violate international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. They contradict the commitments made by Russia regarding Ukraine in the framework of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership signed in 1997 between Russia and Ukraine.

Luxembourg is deeply concerned about the rising tensions in Crimea caused by the illegal presence of armed Russian forces outside their authorized area. It is urgently necessary to defuse the crisis through military de-escalation, starting with the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces to their pre-crisis permanent areas of deployment. We welcome the calm and restraint shown by the Ukrainian authorities to date in the face of the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country. However, we consider the death of a Ukrainian officer killed yesterday by bullets during the attack on a military base in Simferopol of greatest concern. Today, there are reports of attacks on Ukrainian armed forces bases, including the headquarters of the Ukrainian navy in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In the present context, every incident could become the spark that ignites the fire.

To address the crisis, we believe that the United Nations has a role to play in close cooperation with the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other organizations. We regret that it was not possible for the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to visit Crimea. Nevertheless, Mr. Šimonović's briefing, based on the evidence he collected, tends to confirm the observation made two weeks ago by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The main reason given by the Russia to legitimize its actions – threats to the rights of Russian speakers and communities in Crimea – have turned out to be unfounded. It was not the actions of the Government in Kyiv or the Ukrainian authorities but Russia's military escalation that fostered a climate of impunity and an increase in human rights violations in Crimea. The situation threatens seriously to disrupt the balance between the various communities that have coexisted peacefully until now in Crimea.

We welcome the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to quickly deploy observers, under the "Rights up front" action plan of the Secretary-General, to monitor the human rights situation of throughout Ukrainian territory. The observers can establish the facts and report objectively in order to halt the spread of unfounded allegations geared to exacerbate tensions. We hope that the team of observers will soon be fully operational and that it will also go to Crimea and eastern Ukraine. In the same vein, we hope that the presence of the international community throughout Ukraine will be reinforced as soon as possible by the establishment of a special OSCE observer mission. Its implementation should be delayed no further.

In general, we encourage the United Nations to pursue its good offices in the crisis between Ukraine and Russia. In that respect, we applaud the visit planned by the Secretary-General to Moscow and Kyiv in the next few days. Even if they have not yet borne fruit, diplomatic efforts must continue intensively to achieve a solution that respects the political independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The representative of the Russian Federation has asked to make a further statement.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): During the course of our discussions, a number of my colleagues have given themselves poetic license. I am especially forced to return to the statement made by the representative of the United States. Ms. Powers started with a reference to Tolstoy and Chekhov and finished by lowering herself to the level of the tabloid press. It is simply unacceptable to listen to such insults addressed to our country. If the delegation of the United States of America expects our cooperation in the Security Council on

other issues, Ms. Powers must understand that quite clearly.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): The representative of Ukraine has asked to make a further statement. I give him the floor.

**Mr. Sergeyev** (Ukraine): I would like to thank you personally, Madam President, for convening this meeting. I would like to thank all the members of the Council for inviting me to take part in it. I am grateful to the Deputy Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for their briefings. I would like to extend my gratitude to all who, in their statements, expressed support for the territorial integrity of my country and raised strong objections concerning the illegitimacy of the referendum in Crimea. I will now say a few words in Russian, as is becoming customary. (*spoke in Russian*)

I should like to comment on a few elements of the statement of my colleague from the Russian Federation. It is very complicated and to a large extent unpleasant to make comments regarding some of the statements made by my Russian colleague. It is very difficult to comment on what is blatantly false, because it puts one in a position of having to justify oneself. Regarding the freedom of expression and access to information in Ukraine, does Mr. Churkin know the difference between freedom of expression and access to information in Ukraine and in Russia? All the webcasts of the Security Council are broadcast in Ukraine on all channels, without editing. Not everything that was heard here today will sound pleasant to the ears of Ukrainians. There were a great many recommendations made here today that contain elements critical of Ukraine, but we are ready to listen to all of that.

The only things that are heard in the Russian media are Russian statements. Yesterday, I met with a women's non-governmental organization that participated in the Women's Forum at the United Nations. One of the women was from Odessa, another from Donetsk and the third was from Chernihiv. All were Russian speakers. They turned to me and asked: "How can the whole world, watching on television, be told such lies as are heard in many of the statements made by representatives of the Russian Federation?" How could I answer them?

The means justify the ends? That is probably the only answer.

I have two comments that it simply behoves me to make. My Russian colleague characterized as blasphemy the decision of the Ukrainian authorities yesterday to allow our military in Crimea to use weapons in self-defence, following the death of their fellow soldier. Today, we have heard that it is blasphemy because they are raising their weapons against their fellow countrymen. This is odd. The feeling one is left with is that it is Ukraine that has launched an attack by bringing its forces in, as opposed to the truth, which is that Russia three weeks ago deployed its forces throughout the sovereign territory of Ukraine – and this at the beginning of the Orthodox Easter, at the time when believers were to gather. I believe that there is an excess of cynicism and untruth here. (*spoke in English*)

Ukraine keeps saying that we are ready for dialogue. We started with a request to our Russian colleagues to hold consultations under the bilateral agreement. We invited all guarantors under the Budapest Memorandum to convene a meeting as provided for by that document. The Russian Federation refused. We are ready for further dialogue, and we acknowledge the recent proposal made by the Russian Federation. But what is disappointing is that these are not proposals; they are ultimatums and demands as to how Ukraine should build its future. We do not like these ultimatums because they are open interference in our domestic affairs. We would like to have dialogue.

We applaud the efforts of the Secretary-General over recent weeks and we expect that his meetings in Moscow in Kyiv will lead to some positive developments. I thank my colleagues in the Chamber for their support.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked to take the floor to make an additional statement.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I do not want to exchange polemics with my Ukrainian colleagues and I do not think there is going to be a lengthy discussion, but there are two comments that I wish to make.

What is cynicism? Cynicism is attempting to provoke a conflict by shooting both at one's own side and the other side. Today, a number of my colleagues referred to an alleged attack on a Ukrainian base. I can tell the Council again that there has been no attack on any base. There were not even any Russian soldiers present. Those who were present were unarmed members of the self-defence forces, wearing only bullet-proof jackets, and a sniper posted on a nearby building shot, killed and injured one person on each side. Immediately, the leaders in Kyiv come out with a statement saying that there is now a need to fire on Russian soldiers. Now that is real cynicism. Cynicism is what we saw in the Maidan, where there was an attempt to provoke the violent overthrow of the authorities by shooting at all sides and kill as many protestors as possible, as Mr. Šimonović said today. A professional fired on the crowds, and everyone saw where the shots came from. One well-equipped and well-trained sniper came from the headquarters of the so-called Maidan commandant. That is cynicism.

Finally, let me turn to the so-called ultimatum. I do not know why our Ukrainian colleagues refer to this as an ultimatum. Our Western partners have started to consider how to extricate themselves from the crisis in Ukraine and to come up with their own recipes to do so. We in response provided them with our vision of how we could extricate ourselves from the crisis in Ukraine to ensure that all regions feel at rest and secure. The very core of our proposal is entirely in keeping with the agreement of 21 February. There needs to be a constitutional process whereby all regions would feel that their rights were being defended within the framework of the Ukrainian State. That is not an ultimatum to Kyiv, but something we have discussed with our partners. In my statement today, I said that we stand ready to continue such dialogue.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): The representative of France has asked to take the floor to make an additional statement.

**Mr. Araud** (France) (*spoke in French*): I believe that we cannot talk nonsense here and that we cannot let the representative of the Russian Federation lecture us to the effect that Russia has made proposals intended to settle the conflict. In reality, Russia's proposals are simple. What is mine is mine – that is to say, Crimea – and we can negotiate on what is yours – that is to say, Ukrainian sovereignty. That is the Russian proposal. The Russian keep repeating that they are ready to talk about whatever is left of Ukraine, but Crimea is over. We say no; let us be clear. On such bases, we cannot have a dialogue founded on international legal order. We did not reject the Russian proposal. Quite simply, we rejected any proposal that boils down to forcing us to accept the annexation of Crimea. It is simple. We are ready to negotiate on the basis of international law. International law means the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked to take the floor to make an additional statement.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I have a feeling that there is something in our proposal that our French colleague does not like. That is the impression I am left with. But we did not submit it as a draft resolution of the Security Council. It was discussed by Secretary of State Kerry and Minister Lavrov in great detail. They tabled their documents; we tabled ours. What is unusual about any of this? I do not see anything unusual in all of this, and if there is something that he does not like, let us sit down and discuss the specific points that you do not like. That is standard diplomatic process.

**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 on Deployment of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine**

United States Mission to the OSCE

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer

to the Preparatory Committee Meeting, Vienna

March 19, 2014

Let me start by saying "thank you" to the Swiss Chair for attempting to concretely propose a solution to the concerns raised by the Russian Federation yesterday. I would note that when you asked for comments on your latest proposal there was, again, only one objection in the room. That leads us to the third instance in a week where that's been the case, and that is deeply disappointing, particularly given the Russian Federation's continuing statements to the public that they support and see the urgency of getting monitors on the ground, and it calls into question the sincerity of those comments.

In response to what sounds like the outstanding issue here, which is the [geographic] scope issue that [Russian delegate] has raised again, I would reply to the Russian delegate: you said you need clarity on the scope of the mission. It's crystal clear – the scope is all of Ukraine. And, I might add, it had been the desire of the Ukrainian government to request a mission that was limited in scope to a particular area of Ukraine. The Russians came back over the weekend repeatedly and said, "No, no, we want it throughout the country." So now we have a text that completely aligns to Foreign Minister Lavrov's demands. It says in operative paragraph seven: "...throughout Ukraine..." It says in the title "Ukraine" without discrimination or exclusion. It says in operative paragraph two: "throughout the country." That is a clear delineation.

I know that Foreign Minister Lavrov has raised publicly and privately his concerns about western Ukraine. We don't share the same assessment of facts on the ground that Minister Lavrov continues to promote, but it is clear that, from this text as it stands, there is an answer to your [Russian] request for a concrete delineation of what is covered: "throughout the country." Including, as [the Swiss Chair] you said, "north, south, east, and west."

So it begins to call into question whether Foreign Minister Lavrov is playing a game that the poor delegation here has to carry out. But we can't get wrapped around the twisted logic that is being promoted. The answer to your question is that there is a clear delineation of the geographic scope, it includes throughout the entire country, which was – we should all remember – a demand of your own government. It has been answered, it has been answered clearly, and there is no excuse for not moving forward.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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**OSCE parliamentarians to observe Ukraine's presidential vote: pre-election visit scheduled for next week**

COPENHAGEN 19 March 2014

COPENHAGEN, 19 March 2014 – A delegation led by senior OSCE parliamentarians will observe Ukraine's presidential election on 25 May and provide leadership for the OSCE's short-term observer mission.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter has designated Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) as Special Co-ordinator of the mission. Makis Voridis (MP, Greece) will serve as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation, which is expected to include some 100 parliamentarians from a wide range of OSCE participating States.

OSCE parliamentarians will make several pre-election visits to Ukraine, including an initial visit scheduled for 26-29 March. Soares and Voridis will lead the visit and will be accompanied by OSCE PA Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Programme Director Anna Chernova. Meetings are expected with Acting President of Ukraine and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Turchynov; Acting Prime Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk; Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Andriy Deschtysha; the Ukrainian

Delegation to the OSCE PA; the Central Election Commission; and representatives of civil society.

Members of the delegation to observe the May vote will deploy to polling stations across Ukraine, working closely with long-term observers from OSCE/ODIHR and in co-ordination with colleagues from PACE and other partner institutions.

The mission will assess the elections against democratic commitments contained in the OSCE's 1990 Copenhagen Document.

“Just months after the violence on Maidan and amid violations of the country's territorial integrity, Ukraine's leaders and institutions face the challenge of organizing an election that will be among the most important in the country's history. Ukraine must rise to the challenge, and we hope to observe an election that is free, fair, and peaceful,” said Special Co-ordinator Soares.

Voridis, the Head of the OSCE PA Delegation for the Ukraine mission, added, “I look forward to our pre-election visits to Ukraine, which will allow us remain informed of the situation on the ground and chart the country's progress in preparing for 25 May. A democratic, well-run election would have enormous potential to stabilize the situation in the country and the country's citizens and leaders must seize this opportunity.”

Joao Soares is a former two-term president of the OSCE PA and has been an OSCE parliamentarian since 2002. He is currently the Deputy Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the Assembly and holds several committee positions. He has led or participated in more than 30 observations and served as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observer mission for the first and second rounds of Ukraine's presidential election in January 2010.

Makis Voridis is currently Chair of the OSCE PA Committee on Political Affairs and Security and Head of the Greek Delegation to the Assembly. Since joining the OSCE PA in 2009, he has observed several elections throughout the former Soviet Union.

The 25 May vote will be the 12th Ukrainian election that the OSCE PA has observed.

Since 1993, more than 5,000 OSCE parliamentarians and staff have observed more than 130 different elections in more than 30 countries.

This is a press release issued by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The views expressed in this press release do not necessarily reflect those of the OSCE Chairmanship, nor of all OSCE participating States.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is comprised of 323 parliamentarians from 56 countries spanning, Europe, Central Asia and North America. The Assembly provides a forum for parliamentary diplomacy, monitors elections, and strengthens international cooperation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

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### **OSCE media freedom representative outraged by attacks against managers of Ukrainian National TV**

CHISINAU 19 March 2014

CHISINAU, 19 March 2014 – OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović today expressed her outrage about the attack by a group of members of the Ukrainian political party “Svoboda”, including some members of Verkhovna Rada, on the acting President of National Television Company of Ukraine (NTU), forcing him to resign.

“I am appalled by this outrageous action, which goes against all media freedom values and cannot be tolerated,” Mijatović wrote in a letter to Oleksandr Turchinov, the acting President of Ukraine. “This is a particularly serious incident as some attackers not only represent the legislative branch of power, but also are members of the freedom of speech and information committee of the Parliament.”

On 18 March a group of individuals reportedly belonging to Ukrainian political party “Svoboda”, including some members of Verkhovna Rada, stormed the office of the acting President of the National Television Company of Ukraine, Aleksandr Panteleymonov,

intimidated him and forced him to sign a resignation letter over allegations that his channel criticized “Svoboda” and aired anti-Ukrainian content. One of the attackers was identified as Igor Miroshnychenko, Deputy Head of the Parliament’s Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information.

“While I welcome the immediate condemnation of this act by the acting Prime Minister Arsenii Yatsenyuk and Svoboda party leader Oleg Tyagnibok, I urge the government to strengthen journalists’ safety, especially during the current crisis in Ukraine,” Mijatović said.

“I am alarmed that this troubling development is growing, this is the second case in recent days where media managers are forced to resign.”

On 17 March a group of individuals stormed the office of state television in the Chernigov region and forced its director, Arkadiy Bilibayev, to resign.

“I call on the authorities to launch swift and transparent investigations and bring all those responsible to justice,” Mijatović said.

Mijatović also reiterated her call on the authorities to take steps to transform state television and radio into a true public service broadcaster, independent from political and business pressures and acting in line with the media freedom commitments established by law.

During her recent visit to Kyiv, Mijatović stressed the importance of ensuring the journalists’ safety and putting an end to impunity for attacks against media workers. She expressed the readiness of her Office to assist the authorities of Ukraine on this matter.

Mijatovic is in Moldova on an official visit.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in all 57 OSCE participating States. She provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom and promotes full compliance with OSCE media freedom commitments. Learn more at [www.osce.org/fom](http://www.osce.org/fom), Twitter: @OSCE\_RFoM and on [facebook.com/osce.rfom](https://www.facebook.com/osce.rfom).

## ЄС

### **РЕ-ЄК: Спільна заява Ван Ромпея і Баррозу щодо Криму**

19/03/2014

Спільна заява Президента Європейської Ради Германа Ван Ромпея і Президента Європейської Комісії Жозе Мануела Баррозу щодо Криму.

Суверенітет, територіальна цілісність та незалежність України мають шануватися. Європейський Союз не визнає ані незаконний і неправомірний референдум у Криму, ані його результат. Європейський Союз не визнає і не визнаватиме анексію Криму та Севастополя і приєднання їх до Російської Федерації.

У відповідності до декларації голів держав та урядів ЄС від 6 березня та нашої заяви щодо Криму від 16 березня, під час своєї зустрічі поточного тижня Європейська Рада обговорить ситуацію в Україні та погодить спільну європейську реакцію на неї.

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### **Заява Голови Представництва ЄС в Києві Яна Томбінського щодо ситуації з правами людини в Криму**

19/03/2014

Голова Представництва Європейського Союзу, посол Ян Томбінський, виступив з такими коментарями щодо ситуації з правами людини в Криму:

Відтоді, як 27 лютого група озброєних осіб захопила будівлі Верховної Ради та Ради Міністрів Автономної Республіки Крим в Сімферополі, дедалі більша кількість громадян України стали жертвами серйозних порушень прав людини. Серед тих порушень, про які повідомлялося, – насильницьке зникнення людей, неналежне поводження та тортури,

## 26 РОЗДІЛ. 19 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

насильницькі напади на журналістів, обмеження свободи медіа, пересування та мирних зібрань.

Наші думки та молитви зараз з родинами та родичами тих, хто був убитий в останні дні. Сьогодні Україна в скорботі через загибель українського військовослужбовця, С.Какуріна, який був убитий вчора під час атаки на українську військову частину в Сімферополі. Кілька інших були важко поранені. Я різко засуджую ці та інші насильницькі дії. У понеділок ми дізналися, що тіло Р.Аметова, представника кримськотатарської спільноти, було знайдено зі слідами тортур. Правоохоронні органи мають негайно розпочати ефективне та об'єктивне розслідування, і винні за цей ганебний злочин мають постати перед правосуддям.

Осіб, яких було викрадено, слід негайно звільнити, без будь-яких додаткових умов. Йдеться про Андрія Щекуна, Анатолія Ковальського, його сина Сергія Ковальського, Михайла Вдовиченка, Станіслава Поліщука, Олексія Гриценка, Наталю Лук'янченко та Сергія Супруна, Ярослава Пілунського, Сергія Грузінова, а також кількох українських військовослужбовців, які, за повідомленнями, були викрадені за останні години. Я рішуче засуджую ці випадки насильницьких зникнень людей, які перетворюють Крим під самопроголошеною владою на один з найбільш небезпечних регіонів світу.

Ситуація зі свободою вираження поглядів та свободою медіа в Криму викликає глибоку стурбованість. Кілька українських загальнонаціональних телеканалів було виключено з ефіру; журналісти стали мішенню систематичної кампанії насильницьких нападів. Незалежні спостерігачі заявляють про понад 75 порушень свободи ЗМІ.

Свобода мирних зібрань зазнала драматичного погіршення. Агресивні групи силою розігнали людей, які мирно виступали за єдність України.

Надзвичайно важливим є повне шанування прав етнічних груп у Криму, зокрема кримськотатарської спільноти, для якої Крим століттями був батьківщиною.

Міжнародним спостерігачам за ситуацією з правами людини, зокрема з Ради Європи, ОБСЄ та ООН, має бути надано негайний необмежений доступ до Криму.

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### PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 19 March 2014

#### **EU/Ukraine: Commission proposes a further €1 billion in macro-financial assistance**

The European Commission has proposed new macro-financial assistance (MFA) to Ukraine of up to €1 billion in medium-term loans. The new MFA programme, expected to be approved by the EU's Council of Ministers in the coming weeks, is part of the package of support to Ukraine announced by the European Commission on 5 March and endorsed by the European Council on 6 March. It is intended to assist Ukraine economically and financially in view of the critical challenges it is facing, notably a very weak and rapidly worsening balance-of-payments and fiscal situation, which is being worsened by the current crisis.

Olli Rehn, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro, said: "It is in the essential interest of Ukraine and of the EU to maintain peace and political and financial stability in our continent. This financial aid will help in stabilising the worsening financial situation in Ukraine and therefore will be one vital part of achieving a solution to the crisis."

The proposed EU MFA is designed to help Ukraine cover part of its urgent external financing needs in the context of the stabilisation and reform programme currently under preparation with the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The proposed assistance is aimed at reducing the economy's short-term balance of payments and fiscal vulnerabilities.

The disbursement of the assistance would be conditional on the successful implementation of a financing arrangement that the Ukrainian authorities are expected to conclude with the IMF and on specific economic policy conditions that the Commission and the Government of Ukraine will

agree on, both in the coming weeks. The policies that the Commission considers important to support through the proposed assistance comprise urgent fiscal consolidation and external stabilisation measures, as well as structural reforms aimed at improving overall macroeconomic management, strengthening economic governance and transparency and improving conditions for sustainable growth.

The proposed new €1 billion programme would be implemented in parallel with the existing programme of €610 million, which has been available since 2010 but has not yet been released.

#### **Background on Macro-Financial Assistance**

MFA is an exceptional EU crisis-response instrument available to the EU's neighbouring partner countries experiencing severe balance of payments problems. It is complementary to assistance provided by the IMF. MFA loans are financed through EU borrowings on capital markets. The funds are then on-lent with similar financial terms to the beneficiary countries.

[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/eu\\_borrower/macro-financial\\_assistance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu_borrower/macro-financial_assistance/index_en.htm)

### РЄ

#### **РЄ: Ситуация на Украине и аннексия Крыма в центре дискуссий на сессии Конгресса**

Пресс-релиз – CG-PR009(2014)

Страсбург, 19.03.2014

Конгресс местных и региональных властей Совета Европы обсудит ситуацию на Украине и аннексию Крыма на своей 26-й сессии, которая пройдет с 25 по 27 марта 2014 в Страсбурге (Франция). Среди прочего, члены Бюро Конгресса рассмотрят 24 марта проект заявления по этому вопросу. При утверждении запроса об их проведении, 25 марта состоятся срочные дебаты по ситуации на Украине.

Заседание будет, в целом, посвящено теме «Место молодежи в обществе: совместная ответственность городов и регионов». Эта тема является центральной в работе Конгресса в 2014 году с целью предоставить форум для обсуждения европейскими местными и региональными выборными представителями вопросов участия молодых людей в качестве действующих лиц местной и региональной демократии. Для этого в ходе сессии будет проведено несколько дискуссий: 25 марта – «Есть ли в действительности место для молодых людей в местной и региональной демократии?» и «Содействие занятости молодежи через образование и профессиональную подготовку: роль и передовой опыт регионов в Европе»; 26 марта – «Расширение прав и возможностей цыганской молодежи через привлечение к общественной жизни: эффективная политика на местном и региональном уровнях». Затем, 27 марта состоится дискуссия на тему «Участие молодежи – право голосовать с 16 лет?».

В октябре, на 27-й сессии, молодым людям из различных национальных делегаций будет предложено принять участие в дебатах.

На мартовской сессии будет также отмечаться 20-летие создания Конгресса в 1994 году – во исполнение решений саммита глав государств и правительств в Вене, прошедшего в 1993 году – как преемника Европейской конференции местных органов власти, представляющего города и регионы 47-ми стран-членов.

Участники сессии также обсудят вопросы защиты прав человека на местном и региональном уровнях, а также рассмотрят несколько докладов о мониторинге местной и региональной демократии в Европе, в частности, по Армении, Нидерландам, Соединенному Королевству и по Швеции, а также результаты постмониторингового диалога в Боснии и Герцеговине.

### НАТО

**Генеральний секретар НАТО засуджує кроки з включення Криму до складу Російської Федерації**

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Я засуджую оголошення президентом Путіним про прийняття нових законів, за якими Крим включається до складу Російської Федерації.

Росія проігнорувала усі заклики до повернення до рамок міжнародного права і продовжує рухатися небезпечним шляхом. Росія продовжує порушувати суверенітет і територіальну цілісність України і зухвало не збирається виконувати свої міжнародні зобов'язання. Немає жодного виправдання продовженню цього курсу, який лише поглибить міжнародну ізоляцію Росії. Анексія Криму є незаконною і нелегітимною і члени НАТО її не визнають. Мене глибоко занепокоїла звістка про загибель українського військовослужбовця. Конче необхідно, щоб сторони демонстрували стриманість і здійснили усі можливі кроки для уникнення подальшої ескалації.