



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1268 Vienna, 21 May 2020

EU Statement on the illegal conscription in Crimea

Mr Chairperson, the EU is deeply concerned about the conscription that the Russian Federation is carrying out in the illegally-annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to draft residents of the peninsula in the Russian Federation Armed Forces. In the last report from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, it was outlined that approximately 3 000 men were drafted to the Russian Federation armed Forces during this 10th conscription campaign, bringing the overall number of Crimean conscripts to at least 21 000 men.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to which Russia is a party, “an occupying power must refrain from forcing protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces”. This conscription campaign is therefore a violation of international humanitarian law. The Russian Federation is bound by international law, and obliged to ensure the protection of human rights in the peninsula.

The EU does not and will not recognise the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol. The European Union continues to expect Russia to stop all violations of international law in the Crimean peninsula. The European Union is unwavering in its support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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