

Unofficial translation

## STATEMENT

### on Russia's Aggression in Ukraine

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**strongly condemns** the Russian Federation's military aggression in Ukraine;

**stresses** Latvia's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the legitimate power of the Verhovna Rada of Ukraine;

**notes** that the situation in Ukraine is becoming increasingly critical and that by committing military aggression in the territory of another country, Russia is violating international law and the commitments it has undertaken, including those set forth in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. These actions are an illegal, deliberate and premeditated interference in the sovereignty of Ukraine with the aim of provoking a military conflict in order to occupy part or all of the territory of Ukraine.

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**fully concurs** with the Statement by President of Latvia, Speaker of Saeima, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on Russia's interference in Ukraine issued on 1 March 2014, appended to this Statement;

**calls on** Russia to cease all forms of aggression and provocation against Ukraine, immediately return its army to its bases and comply with the commitments it has undertaken by international treaties;

**urges** the international community to express strong support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as urge the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe to immediately deploy border observation missions to Ukraine in order to supervise compliance with the signed agreements.

Speaker of the Saeima

Solvita Āboltiņa

Riga, 6 March 2014

## **STATEMENT**

### **by President of Latvia, Speaker of Saeima, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on Russia's interference in Ukraine**

01 Mar 2014

Latvia strongly stands for the territorial integrity of Ukraine and is of the opinion that any measures aimed at splitting Ukrainian society and questioning the territorial integrity of the country must be condemned in the strongest terms possible.

The decision by the Russian Federation to sanction the use of armed forces in the territory of Ukraine is a gross violation of international law and a direct interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state. The international community does not have the slightest doubt that the said decision is only a hypocritical attempt at disguising behind legal rhetoric the military interference that has actually taken place in the inalienable part of Ukraine, the Crimea. Russia's arguments regarding such manner of the use of armed forces are completely unjustified and in a direct contradiction with Russia's international commitments.

By acting this way, Russia is undermining the fundamental principles of the international security system. We remind that under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom guarantee independence, integrity and security to Ukraine. Latvia expects that the territorial integrity of Ukraine will be fully respected.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is a legitimately elected body of public administration and its decisions are legitimate and cannot be called into question. The refusal by the Russian Federation to come into contacts with the legitimate leadership of Ukraine is not indicative of Russia's willingness to deal with the current situation constructively and in a peaceful manner. The tension and escalation of the situation, including the course towards open armed clashes, and the possible victims of these will be on Russia's conscience.

Latvia calls on the international community to actively express its strong support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine. International organisations - the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and others should act without delay. Latvia urges that the developments in Ukraine be discussed at the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council and NATO's North Atlantic Council.

In our hearts and minds we are together with the Ukrainian people!