



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement by Ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis, Permanent Representative of Lithuania
to the OSCE at the 986th Special Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 3 March
2014**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset I would like to associate myself fully with the statement that has been delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. At the same time I wish to underline the following points in my national capacity.

First, let me draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania of yesterday, 2 March 2014, from which I would like to quote the following:

“Lithuania resolutely condemns and protests the invasion and occupation by Russia of parts of the Ukrainian territory, and demands to stop the aggression immediately. Lithuania calls on international community and institutions to stand united in support of Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and in defence of the fundamental principles of international law embodied in the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act and other international instruments.”

Time and again we underline the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force in international relations. All differences should be resolved through direct political dialogue and consultations.

We therefore urge Russia to respond positively to invitations by Ukraine and to engage in consultations, including those conducted in line with 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

We applaud the attempts of the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office in their tireless search of avenues of OSCE’s assistance to Ukraine in this critical period for the country. Ideas and proposals as elaborated by Ambassador Guldemann, Secretary General Zannier and the Heads of OSCE Institutions deserve our strong support. Special support should be given to the proposed OSCE monitoring mission as well as measures to facilitate dialogue.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson