

**CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC**  
**STATEMENT**  
**ON THE CURRENT EVENTS IN UKRAINE**

Chairpersons of COSAC,

*being deeply shocked* by the recent news from Ukraine about continuing violent clashes that have already claimed human lives;

*extending* its sincere condolences to the families and relatives of the victims;

*recalling* the long-standing parliamentary relations between the European Parliaments and Ukraine Verkhovna Rada,

**strongly condemns** the use of violence and force, and urges to refrain from further acts of violence;

**emphasizes** that provocative actions by some individuals and their groups aimed at turning peaceful demonstrations into riots may not be regarded as a pretext for the use of force and violence against peaceful protesters;

**invites** Ukrainian authorities, on which the main responsibility lies, society and opposition forces to seek a peaceful political dialogue and resort to this only method to deal with the political crisis in the country;

**expresses** full solidarity to the Ukrainian people's aspiration to become a full-fledged member of the European family;

**addresses** Members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine urging them to realise their exclusive political responsibility at this particularly difficult period of time for Ukraine, take responsible actions to contain the deepening political crisis in the country and work towards the consolidation of its civil society;

**is of the opinion** that the laws passed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 16 January 2014 do not comply with Ukraine's international commitments ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms, inadmissibly restrict freedom of speech and peaceful assembly as well as the activity of non-governmental organisations and should thus be urgently repealed;

**urges** the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, to ensure that the case of Ukraine be constantly on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council, until the political crisis is solved and the EU integration aspirations of Ukrainian society are met.