

**STATEMENT  
OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine**

**The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima:**

*condemns* the significant Russian military build-up near the border between Russia and Ukraine and in the occupied Crimean Peninsula, as well as the increased activity of armed militias in the self-proclaimed Luhansk and Donetsk “people's republics” that pose significant security threats to the entire region;

*condemns* Russia's intention to close off the area of the Black Sea leading to the Kerch Strait, thus restricting Ukraine's right as a coastal state to access the Black Sea from its port cities of Mariupol and Berdyansk, located by the Sea of Azov;

*strongly condemns* the Russian Federation’s continued aggression in Ukraine and military occupation of Crimea, a Ukrainian territory, which constitutes a serious violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

*denounces* Russia’s refusal to uphold the norms and principles of international law, disregarding the international community’s calls for restoring respect for international law;

*reiterates the call* for Russia to prevent the escalation of the armed conflict that endangers the security of Europe and all its countries;

*reaffirms* the unwavering support of the Republic of Latvia for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the consistent refusal to recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation;

*expresses support* for deeper Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine and readiness to support Ukraine in the on-going implementation of reforms;

*calls on* the global democratic community to firmly stand for adherence to international law and democratic values in the entire international arena, and to support the international Crimean Platform established by the Ukrainian government and the non-governmental sector to fight for the de-occupation of Crimea;

*urges* the delegations representing the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia in international organisations to encourage the establishment of support groups for the international Crimean Platform.