

**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,

condemns the use of violence and force, and urges a halt to further acts of violence on all sides;

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

expresses full solidarity to the Ukrainian people's aspiration to move forward Ukraine's relationship with the European Union in the Eastern partnership framework;

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of speech and peaceful assembly as well as the activity of non-governmental organisations and should thus be urgently repealed;

notes with satisfaction the swift reaction of the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 20th January 2014 and its conclusions on the matter;

urges the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Katherine Ashton, to follow the political developments in Ukraine, until the political crisis is solved;

and urges the EU Institutions to take actions considering the need to promote dialogue between the government and Ukrainian authorities and the opposition, mediating in order to avoid a worsening of the situation. Commissioner's Fühle's visit to Ukraine over the weekend, as well as the scheduled visit of HR/VP Ashton to Kiev this week provides an excellent opportunity for such mediation.