

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SPEAKERS
OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, THE POLISH SENATE AND THE
UKRAINIAN VERKHOVNA RADA
Kiev, March 17, 2014

We, the Speakers of the Parliaments of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine,

expressing our strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and *acknowledging* the legitimacy of the current government of Ukraine,

condemn the *act of aggression committed* by the Russian armed forces and *de facto* occupation of the part of the Ukraine's territory. These actions are in breach of the UN Charter and the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. We consider it to be the most serious challenge to global security since the end of the Cold War;

We **call on** the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, begin direct consultations with the Government of Ukraine, and make use of international mediation and observation offers. At the same time we **call on** the Russian Federation to stop spreading discord inciting propaganda and false information about its neighbours;

Historic experience of occupation and annexation in 1939-1940 demonstrates that authors of aggressive actions have to bear adequate consequences and commits us to use all possible instruments to prevent history from repeating itself. We **support** targeted measures against those responsible for violation of Ukrainian territorial integrity and sovereignty as well as against persons, whose activities destabilise the situation in Ukraine and threaten human rights;

We **welcome** the Ukrainian Government's efforts to stabilise the situation. We consider that the decision by the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to hold a so-called referendum on March 16 on the future status of the territory violates the Ukrainian Constitution and therefore, is illegal. We assess the declaration of independence of Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crime of 11 March 2014 as contrary to the efforts to deescalate the situation;

We strongly **believe** that the Association Agreement, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Ukraine is an important step in deepening the relations as well as opening the perspectives for Ukraine's integration into the European Union and call for its signature at the earliest opportunity. We stand ready to provide all possible support to Verhovna Rada in their further eurointegration steps and encourage it to enforce self-government reform in Ukraine, to harmonize the Ukrainian law with the EU *acquis*, to adopt laws on a visa-free regime, and to start necessary economic reforms without further delay.

Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada
Interim President of Ukraine

Speaker of the Seimas

Speaker of the Senate

Oleksandr Turchynov

Loreta Graužinienė

Bogdan Borusewicz