



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Herman Van Rompuy,
President of the European Council,
meets OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter,
on the situation in Ukraine**

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, discussed the situation in Ukraine this evening with Didier Burkhalter, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Swiss Foreign Minister and President of the Swiss Confederation, after his visit to Moscow. Following the meeting, Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Council said the following:

"This evening I had a good meeting with the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, on the situation in Ukraine following his visit to Moscow and his meeting with Russia's President Putin.

In this context, I take note of President Putin's recent statements signalling a willingness to de-escalate the situation, including his call to refrain from holding a referendum in the Eastern part of Ukraine and the stated withdrawal of Russian troops from the borders of Ukraine.

Likewise, do I take note of and welcome the Ukrainian Government's progress in implementing the Geneva Joint Statement including its efforts to reach out to all parts of the Ukrainian society. A genuine national dialogue and the cessation of acts of violence and provocations are essential elements in advancing towards a political solution.

I reconfirmed the European Union's support to the work of the OSCE in Ukraine, including the Special Monitoring Mission."

P R E S S

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