

**Statement by the Spokesperson on the agreement reached within the Trilateral Contact Group on the withdrawal of weapons in eastern Ukraine**

30/09/2015

"The agreement on the withdrawal of tanks, artillery under 100mm and mortars up to 120mm in eastern Ukraine reached yesterday (29 September) within the Trilateral Contact Group's working group on security is a positive step forward.

The withdrawal would strengthen the ceasefire, which has been largely holding since 1 September 2015, and contribute to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements in full respect of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

To this end, it will be essential that the OSCE SMM is granted full, safe and unrestricted access to all areas and weapon storage points so as to carryout its mandate.

Ahead of the Normandy Summit in Paris on 2 October, it is now crucial to advance on the implementation of other provisions of the Minsk agreements, notably on local elections."