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STATEMENT

Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the latest developments in Ukraine

"The most recent reports by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine about convoys in separatist held areas with substantial amounts of heavy weapons, tanks and troops without insignia moving westwards represent a very worrying development. This comes in addition to reported heavy outgoing shelling overnight from the Donetsk area and reports over the last week of increased movements of troops and equipment.

It is imperative to avoid any re-escalation of hostilities. All parties must now show utmost restraint, strictly abide by their commitments under the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, and reengage in view of finding a peaceful sustainable solution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I call on the Russian Federation to fully assume its responsibilities in this regard, including by preventing any further movement of military, weapons or fighters from its territory into Ukraine, and withdrawing any troops, weapons and equipment under its control from Ukraine, as well as by exercising its influence to ensure that the separatists implement in good faith the obligations assumed in Minsk."

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