

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office/ First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivica Dacic welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2202 underlining the necessity that all signatories of the Minsk Document fully and unconditionally complied with the comprehensive cease-fire agreed in Minsk on 12 February.

"At this moment, it is essential that all military activities cease immediately and that the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) has full access to all areas, including Debaltseve", Dacic said. "It is the responsibility of all signatories of the Minsk documents to ensure the safety, security, unhindered access to all areas and freedom of movement for the Special Monitoring Mission monitors on the ground. SMM reports on denied access to the area in and around Debaltseve are disturbing, and I particularly call on the representatives of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic, to enable SMM access to the area without delay, which is fully compliant with the Minsk agreements and commitments. Despite the efforts of my Special Representative Ambassador Tagliavini, access of the SMM monitors to the area in and around Debaltseve has not been allowed".

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office recalled that the ceasefire was agreed and in force for the entire conflict area, without any exceptions. A full and verifiable ceasefire is the essential prerequisite for the undertaking of other steps from the Package of Measures which the SMM is ready to implement.