

## Statement by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance concerning Ukraine

Strasbourg, 27.03.2014 - The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe wishes to express its grave concern at serious allegations of intimidation and discrimination against Ukrainian speakers and Tatars in the Crimean region of Ukraine, now under the de facto control of the Russian Federation.

ECRI, while not accepting the legitimacy of the Russian Federation takeover of that region<sup>1</sup>, calls on the Russian Federation authorities to ensure the protection of Ukrainian speakers and Tatars in Crimea.

ECRI also calls upon the Ukrainian authorities to oppose firmly any discrimination against Russian speakers and other groups in the country.

*ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, citizenship, colour, religion and language (racial discrimination), as well as xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States.*

For more information on ECRI: [www.coe.int/ecri](http://www.coe.int/ecri)

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<sup>1</sup> See Decision on the Situation in Ukraine adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at its 1195th meeting on 19-20 March 2014 and Opinion CDL-AD(2014)002-e of the Venice Commission.