

To the OSCE
Secretary General
Ms. Helga Maria Schmid

Proposal for two confidence-building measures in the conflict over Russia and Ukraine

Basel, January 24th 2022

The escalation in the relationship between the NATO countries and Russia will be further fuelled on Monday, 24.01.2022 by a declaration of the European Union that we already know about. In this statement, Russia alone is held responsible for the escalation and threatened with further economic sanctions.

In order to stop the escalation, our Institute is making the following proposals for confidence-building measures, which we submit to the OSCE in Vienna.

The background to this is our ongoing survey with language choices of Russian and Ukrainian, in which members of the parties to the conflict also participate anonymously:

<https://trustyourplace.com/?lang=ukr>

<https://trustyourplace.com/?lang=ru>

1) Ending the economic sanctions against Russia

The economic sanctions against Russia are particularly damaging to Ukraine, for which Russia is the most important trading partner. German companies, such as Siemens, are also massively harmed by the sanctions. The development of peaceful economic relations in Europe is the most sensible way to combat global warming and the COVID pandemic, poverty and structural weakness in the most sensible way of supranational understanding.

2) Elections under OSCE supervision in Crimea and Donbass

After elections in the autonomous regions concerned that had already been held since 1994, but had not been accepted, elections in Donbass and Crimea should be held urgently under OSCE supervision. In the elections the citizens there can decide for themselves to which national territory their then possibly autonomous regions should belong to.

We expect both proposals to fundamentally improve the dialogue and thus the security situation in the region.

For further inquiries, you can reach Dr. Alexander Dill by phone or Zoom