



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 982nd FSC Plenary Meeting

(07 July 2021, via video teleconferencing)

(Agenda item 3, Any other business)

Mr. Chairperson,

In a spirit of transparency and given the increased attention of the international community to the military-political and security situation in and around Ukraine, as well as the ongoing activities of the Russian Federation on military-political destabilization of the Black Sea region, we consider it appropriate to continue the practice of voluntary information briefings on military exercises below threshold levels.

Today we would like to brief esteemed delegates of OSCE participating States about the planned Ukrainian-British exercise “Cossack Mace 2021”.

“Cossack Mace 2021” is a combined multinational exercise involving 6 partner-countries in total: United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Ukraine, and other representatives of multinational “Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade”.

A tactical level exercise, “Cossack Mace 2021” includes command and staff training and live fire combat training. The aim of the exercise is to train staffs and units of the Ukrainian armed forces in performing assigned tactical tasks, including during multinational operations as a part of multinational forces responsible for peacekeeping and providing security.

The main objectives are to:

- Train the Ukrainian armed forces in the conduct of joint actions together with military formations from the national armed forces of partner States;
- Improve the level of interoperability between the headquarters and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom.
- Improve the coordination of planning, training, and command functions at the tactical levels.

The exercise will be conducted from 12 to 24 July 2021, but there are four distinct phases overall:

- Phase I (05–11 July) – arrival of units from the participating countries and deployment of control points;
- Phase II (12–16 July) – operational co-ordination of the units and forces;

- Phase III (19–24 July) – active phase of exercise;
- Phase IV (24–28 July) – wrapping up of the exercise and departure of the units.

The exercise will take place at the 235th International Military Training Centre located in Mykhailivka settlement, Mykolaivska oblast.

The Operational Command "East" of the Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, is the main planning and control body for the exercise, which will involve units from the Ukrainian Armed Forces and State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (up to 900 Ukrainian military personnel in total), and units from the Armed Forces of the UK, and national armed forces of partner countries (around 500 troops). Overall, the exercise will involve up to 1,400 troops.

The main weapon and equipment systems involved in the exercise will include:

- Up to 10 main battle tanks T-64, up to 33 infantry fighting vehicle BMP-1, up to 4 artillery systems of calibre more than 100mm, up to 15 armoured personnel carriers and up to 3 helicopters from Ukraine;
- Up to 55 armoured vehicles and up to 2 aircrafts from the United Kingdom.

The holding of the "Cossack Mace 2021" exercise on the territory of Ukraine is provided for by Decree No. 570/2020 of 16 December 2020 of the President of Ukraine, "On the plan for conducting multinational exercises with the participation of units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the territory of Ukraine and their participation in multinational exercises outside Ukraine for 2021, and on the admission of units of the armed forces of other States into the territory of Ukraine in 2021 to participate in multinational exercises"; and by Law No. 1131-IX of 26 January 2021, "On approving the decision of the President of Ukraine on the admission of units of the armed forces of other States into the territory of Ukraine in 2021 to participate in multinational exercises".

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

We should like to point out that although the "Cossack Mace 2021" as an exercise is not formally covered by the confidence and security building measures laid down in the Vienna Document 2011 (below threshold levels), Ukraine has nevertheless provided this voluntary information briefing, given the increased attention of the international community to the military-political and security situation in and around Ukraine.

We also stress that in giving this voluntary briefing, Ukraine has demonstrated its adherence to the principles of predictability, transparency, and openness in relation to its military activities in the interests of ensuring regional security and stability.

Thank you for your attention, dear colleagues, and thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for giving me the floor.