

# WE RESPECT THE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH-EAST

On 2 November 2014 the armed groups holding parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions staged "elections" of their own leaders and "parliaments". The next day Russia's Foreign Ministry said it respected "the choice of the people of the South-East" and that those elected had received a "mandate". Eight weeks earlier Russia's ambassador had signed the Minsk Protocol, which provides for early local elections "in accordance with the Law of Ukraine". Four claims, the record, and what each concedes.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB  
VERIFIED RECORD  
NOV 2014

5 Sep 2014

Minsk Protocol signed — point 9: early local elections "in accordance with the Law of Ukraine"; Russia's ambassador M. Zurabov is a signatory [A](#)

OSCE, text of the Minsk Protocol (Trilateral Contact Group), 5 Sep 2014

0

international election observers at the 2 Nov 2014 vote; no minimum turnout was set [C](#)

RTÉ News, 2 Nov 2014 (Tier C)

15 - 0

Security Council vote on resolution 2202, endorsing the Package of Measures — local elections "in accordance with Ukrainian legislation"; Russia voted in favour [A](#)

SC/11785, 7384th meeting, 17 Feb 2015

143 - 5 - 35

General Assembly vote on resolution ES-11/4, declaring the 2022 "referendums" in the same regions invalid [A](#)

General Assembly, resolution ES-11/4, 12 Oct 2022

BOTTOM LINE

**The agreement Russia signed set the rule.** Point 9 of the Minsk Protocol of 5 Sep 2014 provides for early local elections "in accordance with the Law of Ukraine". The OSCE Chairperson (31 Oct 2014) and the Secretary-General (29 Oct 2014) warned before the vote that it ran counter to the Protocol; the EU said after it that the vote and Russia's recognition of it were "in breach of the letter and the spirit of the Minsk Protocol" (OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14).

**Moscow announced recognition before anyone voted.** "Of course we will recognize their results" (Lavrov, 28 Oct 2014). The 3 Nov statement then gave those elected a "mandate" — the political footing for entities that the ECtHR found to be under Russia's effective control from 11 May 2014.

**The line runs to 2022.** Russia recognised the "DPR/LPR" on 21 Feb 2022 and invaded three days later; the "referendums" of Sep 2022 in the same regions were declared invalid by the General Assembly, 143 votes to 5 (ES-11/4).

Fair to say. The Foreign Ministry stopped short of the word "recognise" in its 3 Nov text and called for dialogue between Kyiv and "representatives of Donbas". Formal recognition of the entities came only in Feb 2022.

THE 4 CLAIMS

|                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation · statement, 3 Nov 2014 | "We respect the choice of the people of the South-East [of Ukraine]. The elected representatives have received the mandate for resolving practical problems [aimed to restore normal life in the regions]." | Misleading                                  |
| Sergei Lavrov · interview to Izvestia and LifeNews, 28 Oct 2014               | "We expect the elections to be held as arranged and of course we will recognize their results."                                                                                                             | Contradicted by the agreement Russia signed |
| Russian officials · 3–4 Nov 2014                                              | "[The separatist vote does not violate the Minsk deal.] [The Moscow Times' summary of the Russian position]"                                                                                                | Contradicted by the text                    |
| Vitaly Churkin · Security Council, 7384th meeting, 17 Feb 2015                | "[The Minsk agreements should be implemented] word for word. [UN meetings coverage summary]"                                                                                                                | Russia's own standard, not kept             |

WHAT WE ASK

Cite point 9 of the Minsk Protocol and resolution 2202 (2015) whenever Russia invokes the "will of the people" of occupied areas · date Russian control of the separatist-held areas from 11 May 2014 (ECtHR, 9 Jul 2025) · treat the 2014 "elections", the 2022 recognition and the 2022 "referendums" as one sequence under ES-11/4 and the duty of non-recognition · decline to treat any "mandate" from votes held under occupation as a party to talks

# WHO SAID IT, WHERE, AND TO WHOM

Where each claim was made, who made it, how the others in the room answered, and what the statements left out.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

NOV 2014

## THE OCCASION AND THE RECORD

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Occasion                 | "Elections" of "heads" and "people's councils" held on 2 Nov 2014 by the self-proclaimed "DPR" and "LPR" in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions                                        |
| Where the claim was made | Russian Foreign Ministry statement, 3 Nov 2014, as reported by RIA Novosti; Lavrov interview to Izvestia and LifeNews, 28 Oct 2014                                                      |
| Context                  | The Minsk Protocol (5 Sep 2014) and the follow-up Memorandum were in force; the OSCE Chairperson and the Secretary-General had both warned before the vote that it ran counter to them. |

## THE SPEAKERS

|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation | Statement, 3 Nov 2014         | 'We respect the choice of the people of the South-East... The elected representatives have received the mandate for resolving practical problems' |
| Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs            | Interview, 28 Oct 2014        | 'We expect the elections to be held as arranged and of course we will recognize their results'                                                    |
| Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative to the UN    | Security Council, 17 Feb 2015 | The Minsk agreements should be implemented 'word for word' (UN meetings coverage)                                                                 |

## WHAT OTHERS SAID

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, 31 Oct 2014 | Said the planned "so-called elections" ran "counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk Protocol" and would further complicate its implementation.                                              |
| UN Secretary-General, 29 Oct 2014       | Said the "elections" would "seriously undermine the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum" (statement attributable to the spokesperson).                                                                  |
| European Union, 2 and 6 Nov 2014        | High Representative: the vote is illegal and illegitimate and the EU will not recognise it; EU statement to the OSCE: the vote and Russia's recognition of its results breach the Minsk Protocol. |
| Germany, 3 Nov 2014                     | Will not recognise "the unlawful vote held in parts of eastern Ukraine"; the votes breach "both the letter and the spirit of the Minsk Protocol".                                                 |
| Security Council, 17 Feb 2015           | Resolution 2202 adopted 15–0, endorsing the Package of Measures, including local elections in accordance with Ukrainian legislation.                                                              |
| General Assembly, 12 Oct 2022           | Resolution ES-11/4 adopted 143–5–35, declaring the "referendums" in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions invalid.                                                                   |

## WHAT THE STATEMENTS LEFT OUT

- Point 9 of the Minsk Protocol, signed by Russia's ambassador: local elections "in accordance with the Law of Ukraine".
- That Russia's Foreign Minister had promised recognition of the results before the vote.
- That no international observers were present and no turnout threshold was set.
- That the OSCE Chairperson, the Secretary-General and the EU had all said the vote ran counter to Minsk.

## HOW IT TRAVELS

RIA Novosti carried the Foreign Ministry line in English as "Politicians elected in DPR, LPR get mandate to resolve crisis" (3 Nov 2014). Russian officials argued that the vote did not violate the Minsk deal, and Russia's delegation blocked a Security Council press statement condemning it as a breach of Minsk, calling the draft "inadequate" (The Moscow Times, 4 Nov 2014).

Sources: Russian MFA via RIA Novosti, 3 Nov 2014 · Lavrov via VOA, 28 Oct 2014 · The Moscow Times, 4 Nov 2014 · Minsk Protocol, 5 Sep 2014 · OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014 · UN Secretary-General, 29 Oct 2014 · EU at OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14 · German Federal Government, 3 Nov 2014 · RTÉ, 2 Nov 2014 · SC/11785 and resolution 2202 (2015) · ECtHR GC 9 Jul 2025 · ES-11/4 · full list on the last page



# CLAIM, RECORD, CONCESSION

Each claim as made, with the date, the venue and a link; the record it runs into, with the tier of the evidence; and what it concedes. Words in square brackets are the Hub's.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

NOV 2014

CLAIM 1 · MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · STATEMENT, 3 NOV 2014

“We respect the choice of the people of the South-East [of Ukraine]. The elected representatives have received the mandate for resolving practical problems [aimed to restore normal life in the regions].”

Russian Foreign Ministry statement, 3 Nov 2014, as reported by RIA Novosti, "Politicians elected in DPR, LPR get mandate to resolve crisis" (GlobalSecurity mirror)  
[www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141103-rianovosti05.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141103-rianovosti05.htm)

CLAIM 2 · SERGEI LAVROV · INTERVIEW TO IZVESTIA AND LIFENEWS, 28 OCT 2014

“We expect the elections to be held as arranged and of course we will recognize their results.”

VOA News, "Ukraine denounces Russian stance on rebel vote in East", 28 Oct 2014 (GlobalSecurity mirror)  
[www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141028-voa01.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141028-voa01.htm)

CLAIM 3 · RUSSIAN OFFICIALS · 3-4 NOV 2014

“[The separatist vote does not violate the Minsk deal.] [The Moscow Times' summary of the Russian position]”

The Moscow Times, "Russia says Ukraine's separatist vote does not violate Minsk deal", 4 Nov 2014  
[www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/11/04/russia-says-ukraines-separatist-vote-does-not-violate-minsk-deal-a41008](http://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/11/04/russia-says-ukraines-separatist-vote-does-not-violate-minsk-deal-a41008)

CLAIM 4 · VITALY CHURKIN · SECURITY COUNCIL, 7384TH MEETING, 17 FEB 2015

“[The Minsk agreements should be implemented] word for word. [UN meetings coverage summary]”

UN Meetings Coverage SC/11785, 17 Feb 2015  
[press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm](http://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm)

MISLEADING

Evidence 

A

C

The Minsk Protocol of 5 Sep 2014, signed for Russia by Ambassador M. Zurabov, provides in point 9 for "early local elections in accordance with the Law of Ukraine". The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office said on 31 Oct 2014 that the planned "so-called elections" ran "counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk Protocol"; the Secretary-General said on 29 Oct 2014 that they would "seriously undermine the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum". No international observers were present (RTÉ, Tier C).

What the claim concedes: That the vote was organised outside Ukrainian law — the statement speaks of a "choice" and a "mandate", not of the elections the Protocol provides for.

CONTRADICTED BY THE AGREEMENT RUSSIA SIGNED

Evidence 

A

Recognition was promised five days before the vote and before any result existed. The EU told the OSCE Permanent Council on 6 Nov 2014 that the "so-called 'elections'" were "illegal and illegitimate" and, with Russia's recognition of their results, "in breach of the letter and the spirit of the Minsk Protocol" (PC.DEL/1318/14). Germany said the vote breached "both the letter and the spirit" of the Protocol (Federal Government, 3 Nov 2014).

What the claim concedes: That Moscow's position did not depend on how the vote was conducted: recognition was decided in advance.

CONTRADICTED BY THE TEXT

Evidence 

A

C

Point 9 ties local elections to the Law of Ukraine; the vote of 2 Nov was held under rules written by the armed groups themselves. Russia's delegation blocked a Security Council press statement that condemned the vote as a violation of Minsk (The Moscow Times, Tier C). Three months later Russia voted for resolution 2202 (17 Feb 2015, 15–0), which endorses the Package of Measures: "modalities of local elections in accordance with Ukrainian legislation" (SC/11785).

What the claim concedes: By voting for resolution 2202, Russia accepted that local elections in these areas must follow Ukrainian legislation — the standard the 2 Nov vote did not meet.

RUSSIA'S OWN STANDARD, NOT KEPT

Evidence 

A

On 21 Feb 2022 Russia recognised the "DPR" and "LPR" as states and on 24 Feb 2022 invaded Ukraine. The ECtHR Grand Chamber found that Russia exercised effective control over the separatist-held areas from 11 May 2014 (judgment of 9 Jul 2025). In Sep 2022 the same areas were put to "referendums"; the General Assembly declared them invalid by 143 votes to 5, with 35 abstentions (ES-11/4, 12 Oct 2022).

What the claim concedes: That the Minsk text — local elections under Ukrainian law, in Ukraine — was the agreed benchmark, including for Russia.

Sources: Russian MFA via RIA Novosti, 3 Nov 2014 · Lavrov via VOA, 28 Oct 2014 · The Moscow Times, 4 Nov 2014 · Minsk Protocol, 5 Sep 2014 · OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014 · UN Secretary-General, 29 Oct 2014 · EU at OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14 · German Federal Government, 3 Nov 2014 · RTÉ, 2 Nov 2014 · SC/11785 and resolution 2202 (2015) · ECtHR GC 9 Jul 2025 · ES-11/4 · full list on the last page



# WHAT RUSSIA SAYS, WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Each line sets a Russian statement against the finding of a mandated body or, where none exists, an independent investigation. Tiers are marked on every source.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB  
VERIFIED RECORD  
NOV 2014

## THE RECORD

| QUESTION                                | WHAT RUSSIA SAYS                                          | WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS                                                                                | SOURCE                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Who sets the rules for local elections  | "The choice of the people of the South-East" (3 Nov 2014) | "In accordance with the Law of Ukraine" — Minsk Protocol, point 9 (5 Sep 2014)                       | OSCE text of the Protocol        |
| Recognition of the results              | "Of course we will recognize their results" (28 Oct 2014) | Vote and recognition "in breach of the letter and the spirit of the Minsk Protocol" (EU, 6 Nov 2014) | OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14              |
| Whether the vote broke Minsk            | It did not (3–4 Nov 2014)                                 | "Runs counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk Protocol" (OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014)              | OSCE Chairmanship press release  |
| Elections under the Package of Measures | Implement Minsk "word for word" (17 Feb 2015)             | Local elections "in accordance with Ukrainian legislation" — endorsed 15–0, Russia in favour         | Resolution 2202 (2015); SC/11785 |
| Control of the territory                | Local "people's republics"                                | Russian effective control from 11 May 2014                                                           | ECtHR GC, 9 Jul 2025             |

## FAIR TO SAY

The Foreign Ministry's 3 Nov 2014 statement did not use the word "recognise"; it spoke of respect for the "expression of will" and called for dialogue between Kyiv and "representatives of Donbas". Russia formally recognised the entities only on 21 Feb 2022. The Hub should not say Russia "recognised the DPR/LPR in 2014".

Residents did vote on 2 Nov 2014; the Hub does not dispute that ballots were cast. What is in question is the legal basis and the conditions — no international observers, no turnout threshold, armed control of the territory — not whether a vote took place.

Ukraine's own statements (e.g. FSC.DEL/192/14, 6 Nov 2014) are a party's position and are not used to rebut the Russian claims; the record here rests on the Protocol's text, the OSCE Chair, the Secretary-General, the EU, the Security Council and the ECtHR.

**Sources:** Russian MFA via RIA Novosti, 3 Nov 2014 · Lavrov via VOA, 28 Oct 2014 · The Moscow Times, 4 Nov 2014 · Minsk Protocol, 5 Sep 2014 · OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014 · UN Secretary-General, 29 Oct 2014 · EU at OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14 · German Federal Government, 3 Nov 2014 · RTÉ, 2 Nov 2014 · SC/11785 and resolution 2202 (2015) · ECtHR GC 9 Jul 2025 · ES-11/4 · full list on the last page

FACT-CHECK · HISTORICAL  
V1 · 25 OCT 2026



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# ESTABLISHED, PATTERN, POSITION

What mandated bodies have established, what the record shows as a pattern, and what is a position — kept apart. Then the lines to take and the questions to expect.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB  
VERIFIED RECORD  
NOV 2014

## THE LAW

**Established — Minsk Protocol, point 9; resolution 2202 (2015), annex I, point 4:** local elections in the areas concerned are to be held in accordance with Ukrainian law. Russia signed the first and voted for the second.

**Established — ECtHR, Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia (GC, 9 Jul 2025):** Russia exercised effective control over the separatist-held areas from 11 May 2014, so the "authorities" elected on 2 Nov 2014 operated under Russian jurisdiction.

**Pattern — non-recognition:** the vote of 2 Nov 2014, the recognition of 21 Feb 2022 and the "referendums" of Sep 2022 follow one sequence; the General Assembly applied the duty of non-recognition to the last step in ES-11/4 (2022), as it had to Crimea in 68/262 (2014).

**Position — Ukraine, EU, OSCE Chair:** the 2014 vote was illegal and its results null and void. This is stated as their position; no court has ruled on the 2 Nov 2014 vote as such.

## LINES TO TAKE

1. "Russia's ambassador signed point 9 of the Minsk Protocol: local elections under the Law of Ukraine. Eight weeks later Moscow 'respected the choice' of a vote held under no Ukrainian law at all."
2. "Russia promised to recognise the results five days before anyone voted."
3. "In February 2015 Russia voted for resolution 2202 — local elections in accordance with Ukrainian legislation. That is the standard the November 2014 vote failed."
4. "November 2014 'elections', February 2022 recognition, September 2022 'referendums': one sequence, the same territory."
5. "The European Court has dated Russian control of these areas from 11 May 2014. The 'mandate' Moscow respected was its own."

## Q&A

|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| "People voted; Russia only respected their will." | Russia had signed an agreement saying how they should vote — under the Law of Ukraine. It promised recognition before the vote, and the ECtHR found the areas under Russian effective control from May 2014. |
| "Minsk did not forbid these elections."           | Point 9 provides for early local elections in accordance with the Law of Ukraine; the OSCE Chair, the Secretary-General and the EU all said the 2 Nov vote ran counter to the Protocol.                      |
| "Kyiv never held the Minsk elections either."     | The Package of Measures tied local elections to Ukrainian legislation and to a dialogue on their modalities; Russia ended the process itself by recognising the entities on 21 Feb 2022.                     |
| "This is ancient history."                        | The same territories, the same method: "referendums" in Sep 2022 were declared invalid by 143 states. Accepting the 2014 "mandate" would accept the sequence.                                                |
| "Russia never recognised the 2014 entities."      | Correct until 21 Feb 2022 — and the Hub says so. The 2014 statement granted a "mandate"; formal recognition followed in 2022, three days before the invasion.                                                |

## WHAT WE ASK

Cite point 9 of the Minsk Protocol and resolution 2202 (2015) whenever Russia invokes the "will of the people" of occupied areas · date Russian control of the separatist-held areas from 11 May 2014 (ECtHR, 9 Jul 2025) · treat the 2014 "elections", the 2022 recognition and the 2022 "referendums" as one sequence under ES-11/4 and the duty of non-recognition · decline to treat any "mandate" from votes held under occupation as a party to talks

Sources: Russian MFA via RIA Novosti, 3 Nov 2014 · Lavrov via VOA, 28 Oct 2014 · The Moscow Times, 4 Nov 2014 · Minsk Protocol, 5 Sep 2014 · OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014 · UN Secretary-General, 29 Oct 2014 · EU at OSCE PC.DEL/1318/14 · German Federal Government, 3 Nov 2014 · RTÉ, 2 Nov 2014 · SC/11785 and resolution 2202 (2015) · ECtHR GC 9 Jul 2025 · ES-11/4 · full list on the last page



# WHERE EVERY LINE COMES FROM

All sources were checked on 21 October 2026. Russian statements are listed as the position under review, not as evidence.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

NOV 2014

| SOURCES                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| RIA Novosti (GlobalSecurity mirror)                      | Politicians elected in DPR, LPR get mandate to resolve crisis: Russian Foreign Ministry, 3 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141103-rianovosti05.htm">https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141103-rianovosti05.htm</a>                                                                     | RU             |
| VOA News (GlobalSecurity mirror)                         | Ukraine denounces Russian stance on rebel vote in East (Lavrov, 28 Oct 2014)<br><a href="https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141028-voa01.htm">https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141028-voa01.htm</a>                                                                                                          | RU             |
| The Moscow Times                                         | Russia says Ukraine's separatist vote does not violate Minsk deal, 4 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/11/04/russia-says-ukraines-separatist-vote-does-not-violate-minsk-deal-a41008">https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/11/04/russia-says-ukraines-separatist-vote-does-not-violate-minsk-deal-a41008</a>                                                 | C              |
| Euromaidan Press                                         | Russian MFA respects the expression of will of the citizens of the Southeast in Ukraine, 2 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://euromaidanpress.com/2014/11/02/russian-mfa-respects-the-expression-of-will-of-the-citizens-of-the-southeast-in-ukraine">https://euromaidanpress.com/2014/11/02/russian-mfa-respects-the-expression-of-will-of-the-citizens-of-the-southeast-in-ukraine</a> | C              |
| PA-X Peace Agreements Database (University of Edinburgh) | Minsk Protocol, 5 Sep 2014 — text and signatories<br><a href="https://www.peaceagreements.org/view/1363/">https://www.peaceagreements.org/view/1363/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | A              |
| OSCE Chairmanship                                        | So-called elections not in line with Minsk Protocol, says OSCE Chair, 31 Oct 2014<br><a href="https://www.osce.org/cio/126242">https://www.osce.org/cio/126242</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A              |
| UN News (GlobalSecurity mirror)                          | Secretary-General on the planned 'elections' in eastern Ukraine, 29 Oct 2014<br><a href="https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141029-unnews01.htm">https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/ukraine/2014/ukraine-141029-unnews01.htm</a>                                                                                                    | A              |
| European Union at the OSCE Permanent Council             | EU statement, PC.DEL/1318/14, 6 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/c/126897.pdf">https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/c/126897.pdf</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | A              |
| German Federal Government                                | An unlawful vote, 3 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/an-unlawful-vote-436854">https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/an-unlawful-vote-436854</a>                                                                                                                                                                                              | State position |
| RTÉ News                                                 | Ukraine: rebel-held east votes, 2 Nov 2014<br><a href="https://www.rte.ie/news/2014/1102/656341-ukraine">https://www.rte.ie/news/2014/1102/656341-ukraine</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | C              |
| UN Meetings Coverage                                     | SC/11785 — Security Council endorses Package of Measures (resolution 2202), 17 Feb 2015<br><a href="https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm">https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm</a>                                                                                                                                                                                 | A              |
| UN Digital Library                                       | Resolution 2202 (2015), adopted at the 7384th meeting, 17 Feb 2015<br><a href="https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/787968">https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/787968</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | A              |
| European Court of Human Rights                           | Grand Chamber judgment Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia, 9 Jul 2025 (HUDOC 001-244292)<br><a href="https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-244292">https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-244292</a>                                                                                                                                                                               | A              |
| OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation                     | Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine, FSC.DEL/192/14, 6 Nov 2014 (party position, not used as rebuttal)<br><a href="https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/7/126519.pdf">https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/7/126519.pdf</a>                                                                                                                                             | B              |

METHOD

Russian statements are quoted from English reports of Russian state agencies (RIA Novosti) and from Western outlets (VOA, The Moscow Times, RTÉ); mid.ru could not be opened from outside Russia, so the Ministry's own English text is not used. Words in square brackets are the Hub's. Churkin's words are from the UN meetings coverage summary, not a verbatim record (S/PV.7384).

Each claim is checked against the text of the Minsk Protocol, statements of the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretary-General, the EU statement to the OSCE Permanent Council, Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) and the ECtHR Grand Chamber judgment of 9 Jul 2025 (Tier A). Media reports (Tier C) are used for the absence of observers and for Russia's blocking of a Council press statement, and are labelled. The Secretary-General's statement of 29 Oct 2014 (SG/SM/16291) is quoted from UN News; the press.un.org page could not be opened from the cloud.

Ukraine's statements are shown as a party's position and are not used to rebut Russian claims. Results announced by the organisers (e.g. 81.37% for the "DPR head", per its "election commission" as reported by RTÉ) are not reproduced as figures.

Tiers: **A** — UN-mandated bodies, international courts and organisations (OHCHR/HRMMU, Commission of Inquiry, ICC, ECtHR, IAEA, OSCE, OPCW, Security Council record); **B** — Ukrainian official bodies, marked "according to Ukraine"; **C** — independent investigators and media; **RU** — Russian official statements, the position under review. Tiers are never combined in one figure.

Sources: see table above

