**Minsk talks: Make a lasting peace, not an endless war**

**Original Script Date:** February 11, 2015

**Script Version:** 1

**Locations:** European Parliament, Strasbourg; Ukraine

**Dates Shot:** January 29, 2015;February 10th, 2015, February 11th, 2015

**Sound:** natural with English speech

**Duration:**  02:42

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**Intro**

*Strasbourg, 11th of February.* During a vote today in Strasbourg, The Socialists and Democrats MEPs fully supported the peace efforts that are taking place in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, today and underline the need for the EU to be united in its response to this conflict, which endangers peace and stability in Europe. They expressed it earlier yesterday during a debate with the EU Commission High Representative, Federica Mogherini.

**The package includes soundbites from Federica Mogherini and S&D Vice-President, Knut Fleckenstein. Stock shots included.**

**Shotlist**

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (FEBRUARY 10, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE DEBATE ABOUT UKRAINE IN THE PLENARY
3. FEDERICA MOGHERINI (VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION AND HIGH REPRENSENTATIVE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“The message from my side would be to the parties, first of all obviously to Russia, but to those that will meet tomorrow night in Minsk: to take this opportunity and finally get to agree on the implementation measures of the Minsk agreement.”

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE DEBATE
2. KNUT FLECKENSTEIN (S&D VICE-PRESIDENT) SAYING (GERMAN):

“A military solution of the conflict is not going to be forthcoming. The delivery of weapons will not lead to a de-escalation of the conflict, it will bring about the opposite, and that is why we reject the idea of providing weapons to the Ukraine. ”

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (FEBRUARY 11, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: KNUT FLECKENSTEIN TALKING TO HIS ASSISTANT
2. KNUT FLECKENSTEIN (S&D VICE-PRESIDENT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“It might be necessary to increase the sanctions but a military solution would be horrible for both sides and for the rest of Europe.”

1. CUTAWAY: KNUT FLECKENSTEIN TALKING TO HIS ASSISTANT
2. KNUT FLECKENSTEIN (S&D VICE-PRESIDENT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“The Minsk Summit tonight is very important, it is a crucial momentum. I will avoid to call it "the last chance" Summit but it might be the last one. That's why everybody should do what they can to avoid further escalation.”

1. CUTAWAY: KNUT FLECKENSTEIN TALKING TO HIS ASSISTANT
2. KNUT FLECKENSTEIN (S&D VICE-PRESIDENT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

« If there is no progress after the negotiations in Minsk, we'll have to increase the economic sanctions. I'm however not in favour of adding names on the blacklist of people who are excluded from entering the EU, this is not a real sanction. »

UKRAINE (29 JANUARY, 2015) (EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AUDIOVISUAL - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: STOCK SHOTS OF THE STREETS AND POPULATION OF UKRAINE, IMAGES OF HOMMAGES TO THE VICTIMS

**Story**

During a vote today in Strasbourg, The Socialists and Democrats MEPs fully supported the peace efforts that are taking place in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, today and underline the need for the EU to be united in its response to this conflict, which endangers peace and stability in Europe. They expressed it earlier yesterday during a debate with the EU Commission High Representative, Federica Mogherini

**Knut Fleckenstein, S&D MEP and vice-president for foreign affairs, said**:

“The talks in Minsk are of crucial importance because these hours may well offer the last chance to solve the conflict through diplomatic means. All conflicting parties need to realise that only a diplomatic solution will bring peace.  There can be no other solution and no one can afford another missed opportunity.

“The fighting needs to be stopped immediately so that humanitarian assistance can be provided and speedily reach those in need. Genuine commitments must be given to make the ceasefire last and to form the basis for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

“Russia must immediately and effectively stop the flow of fighters and weapons from its territory into Ukraine.  The border must be rigorously controlled by OSCE (the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe), as agreed in Minsk in September. Demilitarisation zones should be established in Ukrainian territory and OSCE should be mandated to observe the process and monitor its implementation. A genuine inclusive national dialogue must deal with the other pending issues.

“The previous Minsk talks in September have already shown the way ahead towards a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. All conflicting parties now need to reaffirm their commitments and start moving in this direction.

“Citizens in all regions of Ukraine deserve a real peace. These peace efforts should be given the maximum support from all of Ukraine's neighbours, first and foremost from Russia, which has welcomed thousands of displaced Ukrainian citizens. Ukraine needs support for a lasting peace, not for an endless war.”