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The reason that so many pundits were so wrong about the possibility of Russia invading Crimea is that that they under-estimated Putin's determination to recover Russia's great power status by reasserting control in the former Soviet Union. Even now, there is a certain tendency to regard the Russian seizure of Crimea as a limited issue, whereas Crimea may merely be a prelude to a Russian attempt to take over the Russian speaking

- Since the Ukrainian revolution of 21-22 February, Putin and other Russian spokesmen have made it clear that they regard the new government as illegitimate, they have called for the restoration of President Yanukovich as head of a coalition government. Former President Yanukovich has asked for Russian help in returning to power.
- Putin has also given himself legislative authority to intervene militarily anywhere in Ukraine allegedly in support of Russian speakers. Furthermore, a bill under discussion in the Duma would allow Russia to annex territories of any former Soviet republic if the Russian speaking population requested it.
The new Ukrainian government and parliament has ignored the

- Russia would recognize Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea in return for increased Crimean autonomy and a renewed guarantee of the rights of Russia's naval base.

In return to the status quo ante, we would add that:

- the EU might amend the proposed Association Agreement with Ukraine so as to allow Ukraine to have free trade with the EU and the Russia's Customs Union,
- the EU should pursue actively the declared willingness of the EU High Representative on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, to negotiate a Common Economic space with Russia's Customs Union in return for a guarantee by Russia of the right of any countries to remain outside of the Customs Union.

Since Ukraine's security depends on a stable and co-operative relationship between Russia and the West, it is important that some effort along these lines be made.