



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE
OF THE OSCE, H.E. IVICA DAČIĆ, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 15 January 2015

Mr Chairman,

I join previous speakers in welcoming you, Minister Dačić, to the Permanent Council on the occasion of the first meeting under your chairmanship. We look forward to cooperating closely with you. You can count on our full support.

Allow me also to thank the outgoing Swiss chairmanship for their dedicated work during a difficult year for European security and for the OSCE.

Mr Chairman,

The crisis in and around Ukraine will remain the most important topic on our agenda.

We look forward to the day when everybody respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, peace has been restored and the SMM can conclude its mission. In the meantime, we should build on the work done last year, continue expanding the Mission to its full strength, and agree on a sustainable financial mechanism.

We must stand united in our support to Ambassador Tagliavini as our representative in the Trilateral Contact Group.

We continue to believe that effective control of the Ukrainian-Russian border would substantially contribute to de-escalating the situation in Donbas.

Mr Chairman,

The role of the OSCE in managing the crisis in and around Ukraine illustrates that we must keep our organisation strong and relevant.

The only way to achieve this is to continue developing the OSCE as a forum for constructive and frank dialogue and to expand our commitments in all three dimensions and across them.

The crisis in and around Ukraine, and the way it has influenced the work of our organisation, has prevented us from making substantial progress in the Helsinki + 40 process. This is unfortunate. Now more than ever we need to put in place a basis for a stronger and more operational OSCE. Now more than ever we must work towards restoring respect for the fundamental principles upon which this organisation and European security are based.

We hope that the Panel of Eminent Persons can assist us in making progress. The Panel can however not substitute for our own efforts. We cannot outsource our work and our responsibility.

Mr Chairman,

The human dimension remains a key priority for my delegation. Without democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, there will be no lasting security and stability. We are pleased that you have asked us to continue chairing the Human Dimension Committee. We will, as we did last year, put resources and energy into the task.

We fully subscribe to your priorities. In addition, we should continue working on issues we had to leave unresolved in Basel, including fundamental rights and the prevention of torture.

Mr Chairman,

The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security is one of our organisation's greatest strengths. An ever more complex world, inter-dependence and new threats call for a broad and cross-dimensional approach. Ukraine is a case in point. Assisting Ukraine through the SMM and leadership of the trilateral group must go hand in hand with assisting Ukraine in developing a truly democratic and rule-based society.

We commend your commitment to work towards resolution of the protracted conflicts. You have the background and experience to take these issues forward.

The barbaric attacks in Paris last week remind us that we must fight against terrorism and stand up for freedom of expression and tolerance and non-discrimination.

Mr Chairman,

In order to succeed in our endeavours, we should more actively seek support and input from civil society. They can help us set priorities, develop our acquis and they play a vital role in overseeing that we adhere to our commitments.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on achieving early consensus on the 2015 Unified Budget. The current budget, however, continues an unfortunate trend of zero nominal growth that contradicts the role we all want the OSCE to play.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate you, Minister Dačić, and wish you and your team every success.

Thank you.