

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the 785th Forum for Security Co-Operation, Vienna, 22 April 2014

Madame Chair,

I join others in welcoming Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić. Thank you, Mr Minister, for your insightful presentation and for outlining your chairmanship programme.

Madame Chair,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

First, I would like to thank the outgoing Mongolian chairmanship for its professional and efficient leadership of the FSC during the first session of 2015.

Secondly, on your working plan, Madame Chair: We have read it carefully and we fully support your priorities for the coming months. You can count on our active support.

Madame Chair,

Norway has now entered the FSC Troika and we are looking forward to working closely with Mongolia and with you in steering the FSC towards the Ministerial Council in Belgrade in December. My FSC team is small, but very competent, and we will devote the necessary time and resources to contributing to a successful year for the Forum.

Madame Chair, as you know, Norway and Montenegro have a long history of cooperation. Looking back on this relationship, I should like to mention the merits of the Norwegian adventurer and Colonel Henrik Angell, who introduced cross-country skiing in your country in 1893. And tomorrow evening, you yourself Madame Chair, together with Norway's bilateral Ambassador to Austria, will host a presentation of Colonel Angell's book about his visit to Montenegro in 1893, a book which is now translated into Montenegrin and English.

We are confident that this proud tradition of cooperation will continue in the FSC throughout 2015.

Thank you, Madame Chair and thank you Minister Lukšić. We wish you a successful FSC chairmanship.

Thank you for your attention.