



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA,
IVICA DAČIĆ**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 15 July 2014

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

Minister Dačić, I wish you welcome to the Permanent Council. We look forward to frequent visits by you, next year. Perhaps you yourself look forward to next year with some anxiety, since you then may be seeing us and other parts of the OSCE family more often than you will see your own family.

Mr Chairman,

Serbia is preparing their Chairmanship in a challenging time for Europe, and for the OSCE. The crisis in Ukraine has potentially serious, negative and lasting repercussions for the security and stability in Europe.

The OSCE plays a crucial role in our efforts to help Ukraine overcome the crisis. This makes chairing our organisation more demanding. Let us all hope that Ukraine next year will be less prominent on our agenda than it is now. But we will under any circumstances feel the consequences of this crisis for the ability of the OSCE to produce results.

Helsinki + 40 is meant to give us a new platform, a better platform for making our visions for Europe come true. We are now half way into the work towards December 2015. It would be an exaggeration to say we have produced much so far. We all know why: We have been busy with other, and more pressing issues. And these issues have broadened the gap between us and made progress more difficult.

Mr Chairman,

The Ukraine crisis has brought the OSCE back into the focus of media and political interest. Also this makes chairing the OSCE more demanding, perhaps more time-consuming. But not necessarily less interesting and rewarding.

We are glad for the renewed interest in our organisation, but it is a pity it has come because of very negative developments.

Minister Dačić,

All this calls for strong and active leadership from your side.

You will be frustrated by the absence of a culture of compromise and flexibility in the OSCE, including in this very room. I look forward to the day when we all understand that the best way to promote our own national interests is by striking deals with others.

Our comprehensive approach to security means that we have understood that there will be no lasting security and stability, within our own societies and between us, without full implementation of our human commitments.

Things are not going in the right direction. Human rights, rule of law and good governance are under pressure.

Also in this area there is a need for strong leadership.

Minister Dačić,

You will be facing demanding tasks, and high expectations from our side. But this does not mean that we will lean back. No, it is in our interest that you succeed. We will support you, not only in reaching your objectives in the different priorities you have outlined today, but also in very concrete ways. This year, during the Swiss chairmanship, eight ambassadors serve as Helsinki + 40 coordinators, others as chairmen of committees and groups. You can count on our continued support.

And next autumn, during the run-up to your Ministerial, it is Norway's turn to chair the Forum for Security Cooperation. We will do our best in order for the FSC to produce deliverables to the Ministerial.

A busy year for you, but also for us!

Thank you, Mr Chairman.