



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/12
10 February 2012

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/12
OSCE CONSECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIPS IN 2014 AND 2015**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the joint statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia (CIO.GAL/241/11) and the principles of co-operation (MC.DEL/62/11),

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2014;

Decides that Serbia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2015.

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Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Albania:

“On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. This statement is made with respect to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/12 (MC.DEC/1/12), on the OSCE consecutive Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, which has been adopted through a silence procedure.

Albania has joined the consensus on this decision with a view to ensuring continuity in the political leadership of our Organization for the years to come. This stance indicates our steadfast commitment to the OSCE, its future and its standing in the European security architecture.

It is Albania’s clear and principled position that every participating State that offers to chair our Organization should inspire trust and awaken confidence in all the other participating States that are actively seized with the matters of this Organization. To date, Serbia’s positions regarding security issues in the Western Balkans and in relation to neighbouring countries continue to be a cause for uncertainty for Albania.

In this respect, it is our legitimate expectation that Serbia should make responsible and unbiased use of its Chairmanship-in-Office and should fully comply with the commitments that bind us all here in the OSCE. A first meaningful step in this direction would be for Serbia to engage constructively in the dialogue with neighbouring Kosovo. It is of the utmost importance that Serbia should implement in their entirety all agreements reached so far in the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue, discontinue its support to the illegal parallel structures in northern Kosovo and offer its genuine assistance for the removal of the barricades that hinder the free movement of people and goods between Kosovo and Serbia. We recall that these are also obligations in Serbia’s EU integration process.

The above, along with other significant steps – such as the facilitation of Kosovo’s accession to regional initiatives and other international organizations, including the OSCE – would send a strong signal of Serbia’s readiness to work towards lasting security and stability in the Western Balkans, as would be expected of a future Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We also expect Serbia to fully and unambiguously honour the contents of the joint declaration distributed under reference number CIO.GAL/241/11 and of the principles of

co-operation distributed under reference number MC.DEL/62/11. We recall that both documents were signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and are referred to in the Ministerial Council decision.

Albania, along with other participating States that have expressed reservations concerning Serbia's bid, will keep a close eye on Serbia's performance at the helm of the OSCE and on its implementation of the Joint Declaration and Principles of Co-operation. Any attempt to depart from these documents or abuse of the trust we have placed in Serbia will adversely affect the international standing of this Organization and is likely to compromise consensus-building on issues of major relevance to the OSCE.

Chairing the OSCE is indeed a highly challenging endeavour, which requires a participating State to put aside national and personal agendas and display a great sense of responsibility.

We wish Serbia every success in this task. Serbia's success will be our success, as a region.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you."