



## Deutschland 2016

### **Greeting by the 2016 OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier**

On the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council taking place on  
8-9 December 2016 in Hamburg, Germany.

*“It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg. It is no coincidence that the final meeting of foreign ministers of the 57 OSCE participating States in 2016 will be held here: No other city in Germany represents open-mindedness, tolerance and international connectivity quite like Hamburg. The port of Hamburg is our “gateway to the world”. The famous civic spirit of Hamburg’s citizens has promoted a culture of active participation in the city.*

*The German OSCE Chairmanship also embodies all of these values: we have worked towards building bridges, strengthening dialogue and engaging civil society further in the OSCE’s discussion and decision making processes. The OSCE Ministerial Council is the culmination of these efforts to strengthen the OSCE. The key priorities of the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 have emphasized essential objectives in the face of current crises: “Renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security”.*

*Throughout 2016, the OSCE has again proven to be a forum for dialogue – not least at the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Potsdam on 1st September. By organizing various international conferences on topics like economic connectivity, or tolerance and diversity, to name just a few, the Chairmanship has contributed to intensifying networks between governments, think tanks, business representatives and civil society of OSCE participating states.*

*A busy and eventful year is coming to a close, but there is still much to do. Further efforts will be required to enhance security and co-operation within the OSCE area. Beyond the 2016 Chairmanship, Germany will remain staunchly committed to strengthening the OSCE and to promoting co-operative security.”*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Frank-Walter Steinmeier'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin blue rectangular border.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office 2016

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The Ministerial Council is the central decision-making and governing body of the OSCE. The meeting, held annually, provides the foreign ministers of the 57 OSCE participating States an opportunity to review and assess the Organization's activities and strengthen the dialogue on security issues in the OSCE area.

Announcements and discussions can also be followed on OSCE and German Chairmanship Twitter accounts or using the hashtag #OSCEMC16