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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 October 2009

**In response to the statement by Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania**

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Foreign Minister Ušackas,

The German delegation joins in welcoming you most warmly to the Permanent Council. We are pleased that as Foreign Minister of the country that in a few weeks' time will take its place in the OSCE Troika you have chosen to honour us with a visit at this early stage.

Already this year, through its Ambassador to the OSCE and current Chairman of the Human Dimension Committee, Mr. Renatas Norkus, Lithuania has shown that it can successfully move the OSCE forward with its contributions.

Today, we are also welcoming you as the President of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), which – as you yourself said – was the brainchild of then Foreign Ministers of Denmark and Germany, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

In a few days' time, in fact, Mr. Genscher will address us here in the Hofburg on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain. This will provide us with another opportunity to see for ourselves the vision of a Europe united in peace and freedom, a vision that was developed by the leading politicians at that time and to which all OSCE participating States have committed themselves.

You have rightly referred to the importance today of the Council of the Baltic Sea States for regional co-operation. Your appearance at the OSCE Permanent Council today is an exemplary demonstration of the fact that the OSCE can call on strong partners at the regional and subregional level. We agree with you that there is considerable potential for intensifying the co-operation between these organizations and the OSCE. Germany has therefore proposed that, within the framework of the Corfu Process, we examine how closer co-operation among the regional and subregional actors in the OSCE area could be developed on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security with a view to achieving practical results.

I should like to take this opportunity also to thank you and your country for your readiness to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in 2011 and to assure you of the full support of the German delegation in this responsible undertaking.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.