



**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA MRS. SANJA MILINKOVIĆ AT  
THE 925<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 October 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the previous speakers, distinguished representatives, for raising the issue of cancellation of Pride March, which was supposed to be a final stage of Pride Week that took place in Belgrade. Their statements will be duly conveyed to our authorities.

On 3 October, The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia stated that, on the basis of security assessments and recommendations, it decided to ban all public gatherings scheduled for October 6, including Pride March, in order to preserve peace and security of the citizens and their property. Such decision was made on the basis of Article 11 of the Law on Public Gatherings, after the assessment of competent services, the police and the Office for Coordination of Work of Security Services, as well as in view of the announcement of serious threats to public order and security.

In his public statement regarding this matter, Prime Minister Dačić stated, inter alia, that the decision to ban all public gatherings has been made in order to protect the safety of citizens of Belgrade and prevent possible clashes and riots. Prime Minister further particularly underlined that this decision is not aimed at harming and denying anyone's human and civil rights and freedoms.

I would like to reiterate that Serbia gives great importance to protection of human rights and basic freedoms of all people, including the LGBT community. This is incorporated in many of the current pieces of legislation, among others Article 21 of the Serbian Law on the prohibition of discrimination, which stipulates that discriminatory treatment on account of sexual orientation is strictly forbidden, and Article 5 of the Law on Youth stipulating the equality and non-discrimination principle.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.