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**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE and other International Organizations in
Vienna**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Slavica Milačić, Permanent Representative of
Montenegro at the OSCE Permanent Council Nr 969
Vienna, 31 October, 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, I would like to warmly welcome the President Krivokapic to the Permanent Council and thank him for his thought-provoking address on the Parliamentary Assembly's key activities and his views for enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of our Organisation.

On the occasion of Mr. Krivokapic's first visit to the Permanent Council, allow me to express a sensibility: Election of Mr. Krivokapic at the Istanbul Annual Session for the first President of the Parliamentary Assembly from this Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean part of the OSCE community, we consider as a great recognition, not only for us in Montenegro, but also for the Western Balkans region. This has been demonstrated by strong support of all of our neighbours, which we highly appreciate. It's also seen as an acknowledgment of Montenegro for its contribution to promoting our common values and goals as well as its commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples. Likewise, as appreciation for President Krivokapic's personal engagement and input to this end.

Montenegro, as other countries of the WB region, is proud to be a reliable partner and strong supporter of the OSCE, which unites the states of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community under one roof and develops close ties with the Mediterranean and Asian partners.

The capacity of the Parliamentary Assembly to continually contribute to achieving the vision of a common security community on the basis of its specific position, expertise and experience of its members is very valued as is its engagement in promoting our common OSCE commitments, notably in the area of democratic elections, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In this respect, we support the proposal of the PA to strengthen its cooperation with the OSCE structures in Vienna, including increased interaction between the respective committees in all three dimensions. We also recall that OSCE participating states at the 2010 Astana Summit expressed determination to "intensify co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and encourage its efforts to promote security, democracy and prosperity throughout the OSCE area and within participating States as well as to increase confidence among participating States". In addition, we share intention of forthcoming consecutive Swiss-Serbian Chairmanships to examine ways to enhance cooperation with the PA as indicated in their Joint Work plan.

We also welcome the PA's input and contributions to the Helsinki+40 process and to the deliberations on the future of the OSCE, while recognising that our Organisation has benefited from the PA's recommendations and ideas in the past. We note with interest that the Istanbul Declaration on Helsinki+40 process, inter alia, has identified prevention and resolution of conflicts, securing long-term arms reduction and curtailing provocative or threatening military actions as essential areas for achieving our fundamental goal of building security in the OSCE region. And exactly in these areas the role of the parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentarian dialogue can and should be strengthened.

Mr. President, we share your point that we face a significant opportunity to further improve things and return to more productive communication channels as we approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Concurrently, the OSCE commitments as well as the values and principles that have guided the Organisation since its establishment- in a word, our common acquis should not be diluted, but rather completed with new tools.

Mr. President, the election observation has been recognised as one of the most visible contributions of the PA to the overall work of the Organisation. The OSCE PA and ODIHR complement each other in their strengths, based on the 1997 Cooperation Agreement as well as MC Decision 19/06, thus heightening the visibility and credibility of the OSCE's election observation activity. As in any part of our efforts, we are more effective and strong when we create good synergy by working together. We welcome the most recent positive experiences and look forward to continuation of this cooperation in upcoming election observation missions.

In conclusion, we thank you President Krivokapic for expressed readiness to contribute to the greater coherence and unity of the purpose among the OSCE's institutional structures and look forward to continuing our close cooperation with you and with the Parliamentary Assembly as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson