

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE
ON BEHALF OF THE THREE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIR
COUNTRIES AT THE 1050th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2015

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the three Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, France would like to read out the press release that they issued on 30 April:

“The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America and Pierre Andrieu of France) travelled to Paris to meet with Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian, and separately with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov. The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, also participated in the meetings.

The Ministers reported on their respective Presidents’ meetings with French President François Hollande in Yerevan and Baku on 24 and 25 April. We stressed to each Minister the importance of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan intensifying their dialogue, and of continued preparations for the next presidential meeting later this year. The Ministers agreed to meet each other, together with the Co-Chairs, to shape the agenda for the Presidents’ discussion, and welcomed an upcoming visit to the region by the Co-Chairs.

The Co-Chairs also note that ‘parliamentary elections’ are taking place on 3 May in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the context of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, we recognize the role of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding their future. However, none of our three States, nor any other country, recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent and sovereign State. Accordingly, we do not accept the results of these ‘elections’ as affecting the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh, and stress that they in no way prejudice the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh or the outcome of the ongoing negotiations to bring a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.”