

**STATEMENT BY MR. GUIDO WESTERWELLE,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GERMANY, AT THE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,
Colleagues,

I thank our Ukrainian hosts for their invitation to Kyiv and their work as Chairmanship of the OSCE. At the last OSCE Summit in Astana we set ourselves the goal of establishing a security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok based on peace, freedom and prosperity – a security community in which the United States of America, the countries of the European Union, their Eastern neighbours, Russia and the States of Central Asia have their place; one in which every country can pursue its own self-determined course without external pressure and paternalism. The adoption of threatening postures and the exertion of economic pressure as we have experienced this year are simply unacceptable.

The people of Ukraine want to decide on their future themselves. In the OSCE we guarantee them the right to express their opinion on it openly. Recent developments, in particular the use of force against peaceful demonstrators last Saturday in Kyiv, worry me greatly. As the current Chairmanship of the OSCE, Ukraine has an obligation to protect peaceful demonstrators from any kind of intimidation or violence. The reaction to the pro-European demonstrations is also a measure of how seriously the Ukrainian Chairmanship takes the common values enshrined in the OSCE.

The Euro-Atlantic security community has not yet become a reality. We should see the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015 as an opportunity to give the OSCE new impetus. In the last few years in particular we have not made sufficient use of the OSCE's potential.

This applies, for example, to the solution of the three territorial conflicts. The search for solutions in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Transdniestrian conflict must become a greater focus of our efforts again.

We need further progress in arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. It is a good sign that we have agreed on an initial set of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks stemming from the use of the new information and communications technologies, the first agreement of its type in the world. The OSCE is therefore playing a pioneering role in cybersecurity.

In spite of all the justified security interests, protection of privacy must enjoy high priority. Spying by State actors in the Internet era is a massive violation of individual rights.

This is unacceptable. The New York resolution on protection of privacy, which Germany initiated with Brazil, is also an important basis for the OSCE, particularly within its work in the human dimension. No progress has been made in this dimension since the Ministerial Council meetings in Vilnius and Dublin. Here in Kyiv we must take the opportunity to give it new stimulus.

Germany will continue to work energetically to strengthen the OSCE. I wish Switzerland and Serbia all the best for their Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015.