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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MARTIN FRICK, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN,
AT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Belgrade, 3 and 4 December 2015

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Liechtenstein Minister for Foreign Affairs Aurelia Frick regrets that she is unable to attend this meeting in Belgrade in person on account of a meeting of the Liechtenstein Parliament.

At last year's Ministerial Council in Basel, in the face of the Ukraine crisis, we were obliged to note that Europe had departed from a consensus of over 40 years on common security. The crisis continues. Last year we failed again to establish a common view of the developments over the last 25 years that have led to the current crisis. There does appear to be agreement, however, that the security situation in Europe is more precarious and uncertain than it has been for a long time.

The terrorist attacks in Paris, Ankara and the Sinai have been a further painful reminder of the fragility of our security. In the last few months, the consequences of war and terror have led thousands of people to make their way from Syria to Europe.

These developments present our politicians and societies with great challenges.

In the face of these challenges, different points of view, even if they seriously diverge, should not detract from the urgent need to work together but should reinforce it. We share the view of those who call for rugged diplomacy leading to more confidence and problem-solving. It is a process of small and specific steps demanding lots of patience, perseverance and a willingness to compromise.

The OSCE can make a valuable contribution to this process and serve as a platform, as it has shown in its 40-year history. The Helsinki principles and Charter of Paris provide the OSCE with a set of basic values. Its institutions stand for and operate in the service of common and co-operative security in Europe.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are experiencing an enduring security crisis in Ukraine, which is hitting the local civilian population particularly hard, especially now in the winter season. We have seen substantive political progress in Ukraine this year but also some setbacks. The positive developments are underpinned by the unyielding commitment of the OSCE, particularly Serbia and the Troika, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the Trilateral Contact Group and the OSCE institutions. To that extent the OSCE has done justice to its increased political visibility and the expectations placed in it in many areas.

In the last few months, Serbia has demonstrated leadership and responsibility through the increased attention shown by the OSCE to the security aspects of the refugee and migration movement. Through its comprehensive security concept and in dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, the OSCE and its institutions and field missions can make a valuable contribution to the migration and refugee discourse. Liechtenstein also welcomes the fact that Serbia has made a particular point of drawing the attention of the OSCE participating States to the problem of the radicalization of the young, highlighting the importance of the urgent need to prevent violent extremism. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has extensive expertise in this area and can offer participating States valuable assistance.

The ODIHR is a core OSCE institution, a leader in election observation and the promotion of democracy and an important defender of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Liechtenstein emphatically opposes attempts to contest the *raison d'être* of this key institution or to marginalize its work. Without democracy and the rule of law there can be no enduring security. By participating in the OSCE our States have also made a commitment to this dimension of security.

The OSCE is an inclusive organization, and that is its strength. While our discussion has recently been characterized by polarization and division, we hope in future again for greater co-operation, consensus and the reaffirmation of our shared values. Within the OSCE, States have to seek what is probably a unique balance between the recognition of individual interests and the welfare of the community. Liechtenstein is willing to demonstrate solidarity, which it has done both through the financing of a number of OSCE projects and through the acceptance of refugees from war zones. It expects constructive co-operation and solidarity from its partners.

Liechtenstein thanks the Serbian Chairmanship for its warm hospitality and the work it has performed and can assure the German Chairmanship of its full co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.