



**Statement by Ambassador Aviv Shir-On**  
**Permanent Representative of the State of Israel**  
**on the**  
**968<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE**  
**Thursday, 24 October 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank you for the cooperation the Permanent Mission of Israel has enjoyed during the past four years of my posting in Vienna. It has been an honor for me to represent Israel as a Partner Country.

The Mediterranean Partner Countries are striving to increase their involvement in OSCE, and on behalf of Israel, we appreciate the steps taken by the different chairmanships, the chairs of our contact group and the Secretariat in realizing this goal.

I have enjoyed the interaction with my fellow Partner Country colleagues and hope that we will witness a widening in the scope of cooperation with Israel during the upcoming Swiss and Serbian chairmanships.

I have tried to increase Israel's involvement in OSCE's projects and programs, and am very pleased with our contributions to all three dimensions. I know we can do more. And we will.

OSCE is an important organization - sometimes underestimated in its value - but it provides a unique forum for countries, members and partners to discuss, in the spirit of cooperation, the many difficult issues confronting the international community.

OSCE is one of the very few fora where countries undergoing conflict are able to sit together and talk, and perhaps even work together. And that is something my country understands and appreciates. It cannot be taken for granted and Israel is proud to be a member of the OSCE family.

With many of you I developed close and friendly relations and I would like to thank you for that.

As I will not be joining you for the upcoming Ministerial in Kiev, I wish you the most success and hope that there will be a resolution on the Helsinki+40 Process. It is imperative that this Process ends with tangible results for all stakeholders.

However, I will see many of you in Monaco but since this is my last PC meeting I thought I would make this statement today. My last word goes to my Arab colleagues: We might not solve the Arab-Israeli conflict around this table but we can definitely contribute to reaching this goal. So I ask you to keep on working together with my successor and with our mission towards a peace in our region hoping we will be successful in this noble and crucial endeavor.

Shalom and thank you all.