



Permanent Council of 17 January 2013

**Joint reply to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Leonid Kozhara**

Mr. Chairman

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Serbia and Switzerland in view of our consecutive chairmanships of this Organization in 2014 and 2015. We would like to warmly welcome H.E. Leonid Kozhara as the new the Chairman-in-Office at today's Permanent Council.

As new and future colleagues in the Troika, we have been following your presentation with particular interest. At the Ministerial Council in Dublin of last December, the participating States gave us the mandate to advance the discussions in the framework of the so-called Informal Helsinki +40 Working Group. Therefore, we very much appreciate your commitment and readiness to pursue this task and welcome your announcement to start the work in a few weeks. It is important to keep the positive momentum. In that regard, you can count on our full support in result-oriented Helsinki+40 deliberations with a view to translate them into concrete deliverables in 2013 and throughout all three Chairmanships.

We also gladly support you in the implementation of your other priorities. In the first dimension, we particularly welcome efforts to further update the Vienna document by adapting it to the current

politico-military realities, with the aim to enhance military stability, transparency and predictability. We also appreciate your courage in taking up the question of conventional arms control. We share your assessment that relevant disarmament discussions should be brought back to the OSCE. Given the current trends in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, we also support your efforts to complete the update of the 1994 Principles on Governing Non-proliferation.

Serbia and Switzerland also welcome your intention to re-energize the resolution of the existing conflicts, especially the attention you are paying to the negotiations in the 5+2 format. Ukraine's experience in the region could greatly help in reaching significant progress.

We appreciate your endeavor to translate the Dublin MC decision on transnational threats into concrete action. In this regard, we agree that close attention must also be paid to threats related to Afghanistan. It is important to develop and operationalise a possible OSCE response to new challenges and threats that might affect OSCE states bordering Afghanistan, as well as the whole OSCE area. It is also timely to make a detailed analysis of all the current threats to security. In this regard, we commend your intention to launch an in-depth discussion and stand ready to contribute to it.

We also value Ukraine's experience and commitment in the second dimension. In our view, OSCE must achieve an effective branding in this dimension, just as it is particularly known for specialized expertise in the other two dimensions.

With regard to the third dimension, we welcome Ukraine's pledge to continue the promotion of media freedom. The emphasis on the legal aspect should not prevent us to promote the effective implementation of this freedom, be it in traditional media or in digital media. We also

welcome your intention to reinforce the cooperation with the civil society, and to promote youth education on human rights issues, particularly on tolerance and non-discrimination. Furthermore, in the more cross-dimensional context, we appreciate your focus on combating trafficking in human beings. We also encourage you to advance the discussions on the review of the human dimension events. It is important to advance on this issue in order to make the work in the human dimension more effective and efficient.

In conclusion, Excellency, allow us to wish you all the best for your challenging task. From our side, we stand ready to join forces with your able team here in Vienna in promoting a co-operative working spirit, trust and confidence among the participating states, because it is our common goal and responsibility to further realize the vision of a free, democratic and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community in the OSCE area.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.