



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
High Commissioner on National Minorities

WELCOME

by
Knut Vollebaek

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

to the

Launching conference of the
Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies

[Check against delivery]

Brdo, Slovenia – 7 November 2012

State Secretary,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all here at the beautiful Castle Brdo. Please join me in thanking our hosts, the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for providing such a splendid venue for the day. I am very grateful to those of you who have travelled here from Vienna and from other capitals throughout the OSCE region. I am particularly glad that the Chairmanship is represented by the Deputy Head of the Task Force in Dublin.

By now you should all have received the materials you need for the day, including the *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*, which I hope you have had a chance to look at. If there is any other information you need now or throughout the day, please do not hesitate to contact my staff.

I will come back shortly in a more substantive way, but first I wish to give the floor to State Secretary Bozo Cerar of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry and then to Mr. Brian Glynn, the representative of the Irish Chairmanship, for their opening remarks.

The floor is yours, Mr. State Secretary.