



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

CLOSING STATEMENT

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile,
at the 22nd Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council,
Belgrade, 3-4 December 2015

Mr Chairman,

Our discussions yesterday and this morning were dominated by three themes: terrorism, migration and the crisis in and around Ukraine.

This does not illustrate a strong unity among us and that we share analysis or approach.

This Ministerial has illustrated the deep divide and the distrust inside our organisation. It has illustrated different perceptions of fundamental aspects of European security. It has illustrated different approaches to fundamental issues in the human dimension.

Mr Chairman,

The success of an OSCE Ministerial should not be measured in the number of decisions of substance.

We regret however that we here in Belgrade missed an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, to freedom of expression and to the safety of journalists.

We regret that we failed – once again – to reach consensus on combatting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We regret that the need to combat intolerance and discrimination seems to split rather than unite us.

Adding to our commitments is an important part of the strengthening of our organisation, in all three dimensions, across them and in the FSC area of work.

Mr Chairman,

As expected we could not agree on a substantial declaration on the crisis in an around Ukraine.

On the positive side we note the decisions related to our fight against terrorism. I would, however, make the point that standing behind the OSCE principles and our comprehensive approach to security would have made this fight more effective.

Mr Chairman,

Our failure to adopt decisions we all agree are important illustrates more than division and different approaches. It illustrates a lack of commitment to the OSCE. Or put differently: It illustrates that too many are committed to themselves only.

Mr Chairman,

In our statement yesterday, we underlined the unique role of the OSCE in the European security architecture. We emphasized that the OSCE is and must remain a key platform for dialogue and that we must use this organisation to rebuild trust.

The key priorities of the incoming German Chairmanship are dialogue, trust and security. These three words capture the essential task we are faced with, namely to use, in good faith, the OSCE as a platform for dialogue on how to restore peace and stability in all parts of the OSCE area.

We pledge our full support to Germany.

Mr Chairman,

We commend you for having chaired our organisation in an excellent way during challenging times. We thank you for your warm hospitality here in Belgrade.

Thank you, Minister Dačić.