



Permanent Council of 20 June 2012

Joint reply to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko

Mr. Chairman

I am speaking on behalf of Serbia and Switzerland in view of our consecutive chairmanships of this Organization in 2014 and 2015.

We welcome H.E. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, the Chairman-in-Office in 2013, at the Permanent Council today and thank him for the presentation of Ukraine's Chairmanship priorities.

As future colleagues of Ukraine in the Troika we are following your presentation with particular interest. After the Summit in Astana in 2010 the subsequent chairmanships have taken up the "spirit of Astana" and have made efforts to move forward our work in different areas. We are grateful that Ukraine shares the same approach as we do for longer term planning and consistency for the benefit of our Organisation. It will facilitate the development of a perspective for the future of the OSCE as we approach the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

In the first dimension, we have to continue our efforts to modernise the Vienna document and implement it in all participating States. The OSCE's role in combating transnational threats has to be translated into concrete action with a view to creating an added value in the years to come. We appreciate your courage in taking up the question of conventional arms control where discussions are stuck at the moment. We share your assessment that relevant disarmament discussions have to be brought back to the OSCE. With your experience in disarmament matters we have high hopes that some progress will be possible. Finally, we are particularly pleased to

see the topic of Small Arms and Light Weapons and conventional ammunition on your list of priorities.

Given Ukraine's close relationship with its neighbor Moldova, we also welcome the fact that you plan to address the Moldovan/Transnistrian conflict as a priority.

We value Ukraine's experience and commitment in the second dimension. Your ambassador to Vienna very ably chaired the committee and we have no doubt that under Ukraine's Chairmanship relevant issues will be further advanced. We particularly welcome your intention to review the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2003 after ten years of implementation.

We welcome Ukraine's pledge to promote the implementation of existing commitments in the human dimension based on the fundamental rights and freedoms we have all committed ourselves to. At the same time, it is relevant to take into account the technological changes that have occurred since Helsinki 1975. There appears to be a need to reconfirm that our human dimension commitments are valid, regardless of whether they are exercised in real life or in cyberspace. We also welcome your intention to cooperate with the OSCE institutions and utilize their expertise in preparation of a forward-looking human dimension agenda.

The fact that the chairmanships have been designated for the next three years offers a unique opportunity to move forward important reforms and modernization issues in a concerted way. The Irish Chairmanship proposed the catchword "Helsinki +40" for such a process. We welcome these efforts and subsequently we are ready to make our own contribution. Ukraine's history and culture have been marked by influences from Eastern and Western Europe alike. Your country could therefore become a bridge-builder between different opinions and regions within the OSCE. We are confident that the Ukrainian Chairmanship will move matters forward in a result-oriented way. Switzerland and Serbia are looking forward to joining forces with you once we enter the Troika.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.