

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MAXIME LEFEBVRE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE,
AT THE 1021st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 October 2014

On behalf of the three countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group – France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America – my delegation would like to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the Paris Summit on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, held on 27 October 2014.

The Paris Summit provided an opportunity for the President of the French Republic to meet Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, and Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The three Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group – American, French and Russian – and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office were involved in the talks.

The Co-Chair countries welcome the resumption of the face-to-face dialogue between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, in particular after the proliferation of armed incidents this past summer in Nagorno-Karabakh, which caused numerous civilian and other casualties. The Co-Chair countries call upon the parties to engage in constructive negotiations in order to advance towards the drafting of a comprehensive peace agreement.

The countries co-chairing the Minsk Group also welcome the decision of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents to exchange information on people who have gone missing during the conflict, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Other confidence-building measures will be negotiated with the agreement of the parties.

The Co-Chair countries reaffirm their commitment to continue mediation with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict, based on the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, in particular those referring to the non-use of force, territorial integrity, equality of rights and the self-determination of peoples.

The Co-Chair countries call upon the parties to make a real commitment to reduce tensions on the ground and to demonstrate the political will needed to overcome their differences and to prepare their populations for peace.