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Delegation of Liechtenstein

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARIA-PIA KOTHBAUER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE
OSCE, AT THE 982nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 January 2014

**In response to the address by Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for
European and International Affairs of Austria**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Foreign Minister,

On behalf of Liechtenstein, I welcome you to the Permanent Council and thank you for your substantive contribution and the political support that you have given us today. The support that the OSCE receives from Austria, both as our Organization's host country, and through the Austrian delegation under the leadership of Ambassador Strohal, represents a sizable contribution to our joint efforts.

Mr. Foreign Minister,

Like President Burkhalter in his opening address to the Permanent Council, you have rightly mentioned the fact that 2014 is an important anniversary and you have spoken of the task of co-operation, borne of the tragedies of the twentieth century, that our generation and the diplomatic community face. It was against this backdrop that the Council of Europe and the OSCE were founded. Both organizations are bound by a shared vision for Europe. The fact that Austria and Switzerland, countries with a long tradition of multilateral diplomacy and shared values, currently hold the chairmanships of the OSCE and the Council of Europe gives us confidence that synergies and co-operation between the two organizations for the sake of a free and safe Europe can continue to be strengthened.

Mr. Foreign Minister,

Liechtenstein shares the priorities you have set and the challenges you have mentioned. We, too, see the Helsinki+40 process as an opportunity for the OSCE. Under the Helsinki+40 process, Liechtenstein will advocate specific measures that will promote the OSCE's strengths as a forum for sustainable dialogue, as well as bolstering and further building upon our security community.

Mr. Foreign Minister,

Austria and Liechtenstein are bound by the fact that we are neighbours, as well as by shared values, deep friendship and a close-knit yet wide-ranging co-operation network. Today, I should like to thank you for these exemplary neighbourly relations, and wish you all the best and great success in your responsible task.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.