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**STATEMENT BY
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HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY
OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE OSCE AT THE EIGHTEENTH
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Vilnius, 6 and 7 December 2011

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The delegation of Liechtenstein thanks Lithuania for the warm hospitality and the perfect preparation and organization of the 18th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting.

Liechtenstein is not a member of any security alliance and has a limited diplomatic network. A healthy OSCE that is appreciated by its stakeholders is therefore in the country's interests.

In our view, the OSCE may be regarded as healthy if the participating States observe their commitments in all OSCE dimensions and the Organization is capable of meeting new challenges to security in its area.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship has managed this year to safeguard and develop the interests and aims of the OSCE and to provide it with the human resources for that purpose through its timely nomination of management personnel.

We also regard the desire of Mongolia to join our Organization as an achievement by the Lithuanian Chairmanship in this respect. Liechtenstein supports the inclusion of Mongolia as a fully fledged member of the OSCE.

It is also in favour of increased co-operation with the OSCE partner countries, be it Afghanistan or the Mediterranean States. Peaceful development in these countries is in the primordial interest of the OSCE States.

The Lithuanian Chairperson, Foreign Minister Audronis Ažubalis, placed his country's Chairmanship under the motto "small meaningful steps that matter". In an organization in which decisions are made by consensus, small steps are large ones.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship managed last year to continue the Corfu Process and move forward on the Astana decisions.

Liechtenstein attaches particular importance to the decisions pertaining to arms control, confidence-building measures and the adaptation of the Vienna Document. We regard these instruments as the “crown jewels” of our Organization. They have made an essential contribution to stabilizing our continent and, in our opinion, also have a future.

Conflict prevention and management are among the core tasks of the OSCE. Last year the frozen conflicts in the OSCE area remained unresolved. The Lithuanian Chairmanship managed, however, to have the conflicting parties resume dialogue. We refer in particular to negotiations to settle the Transdniestrian conflict.

In this context, Liechtenstein welcomes the intensive work this year on strengthening the OSCE’s conflict prevention and conflict management capacities. We are particularly hopeful of the chances offered by mediation and dialogue support.

An international organization may be regarded as viable and relevant if its development keeps up with the times. For the OSCE this means modernizing its *acquis* and its toolkit.

In the OSCE’s human dimension this involves freedom of expression and the observance of human rights in the digital age.

My country also welcomes the fact that due attention has been paid this year in the OSCE to cybercrime and that in general the OSCE here in Vilnius will give the Secretariat greater capacity to combat new and transnational dangers.

Liechtenstein thanks Switzerland and Serbia for their willingness to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2014 and 2015. We firmly believe that this tandem could produce new stimuli, *inter alia* in the resolution of conflicts.

Liechtenstein shares the priorities of next year’s Irish Chairmanship, particularly with regard to good governance, and wishes it every success in the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.