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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RÜDIGER LÜDEKING,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY, AT THE 1023rd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 November 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to inform the Permanent Council that the Federal Republic of Germany has decided to apply for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016. The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, communicated the respective decision of the Federal Government in a letter to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Mr. Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation.

In the Ukrainian crisis, the OSCE has shown how important it is to a European framework for peace. Germany is of the opinion that the OSCE must be strengthened as a forum for dialogue, a bridge between East and West, an operational instrument of European crisis prevention and an actor that takes specific action.

With its candidature for the 2016 Chairmanship, the Federal Government confirms its readiness to assume responsibility for peace and stability in Europe in an important forum.

I ask for support for our candidature.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.