



**Video Entry for the Danish Assumption of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Chairpersonship at the FSC Opening Meeting**

Vienna, 11. September 2024

As delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Lars Løkke Rasmussen

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address you today, as Denmark assumes the position as Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation in the last trimester of 2024.

It happens on a date – the 11th of September - that marks 23 years since the ruthless 9/11 terrorist attack. Aimed at the United States, but also at bed-rock of our free and democratic societies.

As we meet, a shadow remains over the OSCE area. 930 days have passed since Russia began its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

Russia's actions are undermining the regional and international security, which the OSCE exists to protect. Let there be no doubt: The war is an assault on the UN Charter and the OSCE Commitments.

This will be the backdrop of our talks these next four months in the Forum for Security Co-operation. A forum created by the Participating States to consult on security co-operation and conflict prevention. A forum created to ensure that we gather around the same table at Hofburg in Vienna. A forum where we share our views on regional security, even in times of profound disagreement. As FSC chair, Denmark will work to uphold the political-military dimension of the OSCE.

Denmark would like to use the format of the security dialogues to take a closer look at some of the common commitments, which we as Participating States are bound by.

First of all. This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in Budapest.

We are all politically bound by the Code. Given the security situation in the OSCE area, it is relevant to discuss the code's provisions on individual accountability for persons in the armed forces. This will be the theme of the first Security Dialogue, scheduled for the beginning of October.

The next Security Dialogue is scheduled to coincide with the anniversary for the adoption of United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. This dialogue will address the political and practical considerations when extending mandatory conscription to the armed forces to include women.

Denmark has most recently decided to extend mandatory conscription to women from 2026. The dialogue will explore the political considerations as well as practical lessons learned from participating states who already have full mandatory conscription.

The last Security Dialogue will take place immediately before the Ministerial Council meeting in Malta. This security dialogue will revolve around our core commitments, as agreed in the **Helsinki Decalogue** in 1975. With the aim of promoting confidence and peace between the signatories.

Our aim is to highlight the continued relevance of the principles of the political-military dimension of the OSCE. It is also an opportunity to take stock, as we prepare for the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dialogue about our common commitments and our mutual accountability is essential. Now more than ever. When the FSC was created, we were all

entrusted to meet every week to consult on politico-military issues. It will be paramount for the Danish Chair to fulfil this common obligation in the coming months.

I wish you all a productive trimester.
Thank you.