

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY AT THE
1076th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 November 2015

**Information regarding the meeting of the foreign ministers of France,
Germany, Russia and Ukraine on 6 November in Berlin**

The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock and determine the next steps in the wake of the Paris Summit on 2 October. The meeting of foreign ministers was preceded by a preparatory meeting of deputy foreign ministers and political directors, in which Ambassador Sajdik and the four working group co-ordinators also participated.

The discussions were highly focused, objective and collegial. We believe that all those involved are working to overcome the difficulties and obstacles that still stand in the way of a political solution. The steps agreed upon in Paris for the implementation of the Minsk agreements were confirmed and given substance.

The four foreign ministers were in agreement regarding the need to further consolidate the ceasefire, particularly in the area around Donetsk airport. The consolidation of the ceasefire is a prerequisite for progress in all aspects of implementing the Minsk agreements. The ministers therefore urged the parties to complete the withdrawal of tanks and lighter artillery systems and mortars by 10 November and to use the modalities that were agreed upon for this withdrawal for heavy weapons as well. The ministers agreed that on the basis of the experiences with the withdrawal of lighter weapons it should be possible to complete the withdrawal of heavy weapons by the end of November/beginning of December.

The ministers were in agreement in their support for a further strengthening of the monitoring capabilities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), *inter alia* through an additional increase in the number of monitors, the use of surveillance equipment and the establishment of additional forward patrol bases.

The mine question was also discussed. The co-ordinators pointed out that mine and ordnance clearance is a prerequisite for progress in other areas, such as rebuilding the infrastructure. The ministers concurred that an agreement should be reached in the working group on security issues by the end of November regarding the guidelines for mine and ordnance clearance.

The second important set of issues that the ministers discussed was the political process, including elections. In this regard, principles had been agreed upon in Paris on

2 October, along with the sequence in which the elections and the entry into force of the law on special status were to take place. These principles and sequences were confirmed in Berlin. There was also agreement regarding the need to reach consensus by early December in the working group on political issues regarding the key principles for a law on local elections. Foreign Minister Steinmeier identified five priority topics in this context: (1) active and passive voting rights for internally displaced persons, (2) the role of the parties, (3) the role of the Central Election Commission, (4) access for the media, and (5) election observation and security.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, the ministers agreed that unrestricted access for humanitarian aid organizations and the United Nations should be guaranteed and that the exchange of prisoners should take place according to the principle of “all for all”. The ministers also stressed the need to restore destroyed infrastructure, including the water supply, and to focus initially on supply infrastructure when clearing mines and ordnance.