

## STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Boguslaw Winid

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Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland fully supports all points raised by Baroness Ashton in her statement on behalf of the EU. In addition, a few comments from the Polish perspective.

In the last few years the environment around the OSCE has become complex. A successful co-operation on security became more a matter of incident than a rule. Some of the tools that were initially built to provide confidence turned into main sources of suspicion and disagreement (CFE example). Differences on the essential elements of our common *aquis* have been constantly adding to the erosion of the OSCE.

However, there are qualities in our Organization that still make a difference. One of them is the ability to create conditions for constructive exchange of ideas involving all participating States as equal partners, where all arguments can be voiced and discussed.

But the OSCE is not a talking shop. It offers instruments, which have proved to be effective in action:

- field operations,
- the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,
- the High Commissioner on National Minorities,
- and the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

These instruments have been playing a key role in promoting peace and security for OSCE participating States.

Poland is interested in the OSCE as:

- (1) a hedge against uncertain developments in Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security;
- (2) an instrument for advancing the work on a “security community”;
- (3) and an institutional co-manager of the common security space.

It is the security and confidence among us that will make us self-confident enough to build effective co-operation with partners in other regions and to face challenges of the future.

The essential step in this direction would be to ensure the success of the “Helsinki+40” initiative – and we sincerely hope that the respective decision will be adopted at this meeting. Although far from ideal - we still take it as a contribution to the implementation of tasking of the last OSCE Summit. It

should be perceived as a tool to fasten our deliberations in the Astana Commemorative Declaration and the ideas of previous years (particularly within the *Corfu Process*). The goals and guidelines are there.

In terms of updating the OSCE working methods, we should pay particular attention to stimulating our co-operation with civil society and academia. The Organisation has a lot to gain from the so-called *Track II* initiatives, such as the Security Days, EASI and IDEAS. The upcoming meeting devoted to the issue of historical reconciliation may also become one of them.

To remain relevant, the OSCE should also further enhance its capacity to react to the current security challenges. One of them is the need to consolidate Afghan borders and to strengthen the civilian administration of the country. Stability in and around Afghanistan is crucial to the whole OSCE area.

Clearly, the creation of a true security community will remain a long-term project. Therefore, apart from the full commitment on behalf of participating States, a close collaboration among the forthcoming Chairmanships is essential. Eventually, they will be responsible for building consensus around important decisions to be hopefully reached in 2015, and for their implementation later on. In this context, we welcome a model of co-operation developed by Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia. Poland is ready to provide its full backing to the efforts of the incoming Chairs, and is prepared to assume significant responsibilities in the OSCE in the future.

Let me also welcome Mongolia as the new participating State of the OSCE. Mongolia's accession to our Organization testifies to the continued attractiveness of the OSCE, despite its aging. It also proves that the concept of Partnership for Co-operation bears fruit.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ireland for its true leadership in steering the OSCE in 2012 and its outstanding hospitality enjoyed by us here in Dublin. I also wish Ukraine every success in assuming the Chairmanship next year.

I thank you.