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ENGLISH only



**Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip**
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

**OSCE PC 1407 – Statement of Ireland in response to the
address by Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Iceland**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and would like to add the following points.

Thank you to Foreign Minister Gylfadóttir. We are very grateful to you and your team for your leadership of the Council of Europe at this time, and for taking the time to present your priorities to the OSCE Permanent Council this morning.

Ireland was proud to hold the Presidency of the Council of Europe for six months last year, and to hand over this important role to Iceland.

Ireland and Iceland share an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the multilateral system and to the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE both have a critical and complementary role in reaffirming democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across our region.

The High-Level Reflection Group of the Council of Europe, chaired by Ireland's former President Mary Robinson, presented thirty recommendations in October to enable the Council of Europe to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine.

In its report, the High-Level Reflection Group recommended that our organisations strengthen cooperation, and ensure synergy and coherence in our work.

Specifically, that the two organisations work together to ensure the strongest possible coordination of field observations and election observation missions.

The Council of Europe's Fourth Summit in Reykjavik in May 2023 is an opportunity for our two organisations to re-commit to effective cooperation to meet the enormous and complex challenges to security, human rights, democracy and rule of law in our region.

Ireland stands ready to support you, Minister Gylfadóttir, in your important work, and will be strongly supportive of initiatives to strengthen cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.