

31st Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

Malta, 6 December 2024

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

In relation to the decision on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and Denmark:

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Christophe Kamp as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and we reiterate our commitment to the autonomy and the work of HCNM.

We reiterate our gratitude to Malta's Chairpersonship for their leadership in forging consensus on critical issues, thereby enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness.

We regret that consensus on the leadership of the Organization could not be reached earlier, leading to extended vacancies in these critical positions. This should not set a precedent for future similar decisions.

We reiterate the importance of cooperative decisions on the leadership of the Organization and the autonomous institutions that should be based on individual candidates and their ability to support OSCE principles and commitments. As participating States, we should avoid politicization of the consensus-based process and return to the spirit of multilateralism that guides our collaborative decision process.

Furthermore, we as participating States should strive to ensure gender equality in the leadership of the organization, including by putting forward more women as candidates.

In recent years, some participating States have sought to weaken the OSCE's autonomous institutions and have misused consensus to prevent the allocation of resources to all three dimensions. We reiterate our position that the OSCE should have adequate resources to fulfill its mandate across all three dimensions.

I have read a shortened version of this statement and would request that the full version of this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and included in the journal of the day.