



UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

**National statement by the Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Christian Grønbech-Jensen, held at the OSCE 31st Ministerial Council**

**5 December 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine has passed the 1000 days' mark. A horrific war with immense costs, in direct contravention of the UN Charter and the OSCE commitments.

We condemn it in the strongest terms possible. Our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and independence is unwavering, and we will continue to stand behind Ukraine for as long as it takes. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and its pledge of peace we all adopted nearly 50 years ago. Russia's gross violation of the Act is a threat to us all.

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We commend participating states for invoking the Moscow Mechanism *three* times since the full-scale invasion to shed light on Russian violations of human rights and international

humanitarian law in Ukraine. All those responsible for violations must be held to account.

We express our gratitude to the independent institutions for their tireless efforts to hold us all accountable for our third-dimension commitments.

We condemn the excessive violence against peaceful protesters and members of the media in Georgia exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. We are alarmed by reports of serious injuries and arbitrary detentions and urge the Georgian authorities to refrain from excessive force.

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Mr. Chair,

As chair of the FSC this trimester, we have been guided by the belief that we must meet weekly and look each other in the eye, even in times of profound disagreement. The security situation in our region has not been as tense for decades; this is where our attention belongs.

However, we have witnessed Russia going to great lengths to undermine the regular exchange of views by blocking even meetings with the most minimal standing agenda already agreed by this Council. During much of this trimester we have been bogged down by excessive procedural objections from Russia. It is difficult to see this as anything other than yet another attempt to distract from the fact that Russia has, with its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, forsaken every principle, which this organisation is built upon.

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Mr. Chair,

In recent years we have spent too much valuable time on process instead of substance.

Despite Malta's tireless efforts, which we commend, we may again close the year without a budget. The Chair in Office has spent the majority of 2024 seeking consensus on the top positions. And we are now two years overdue in selecting the future Chair.

In the last days, we have seen some positive movement, but let me appeal to *all* participating states to adopt flexible positions

on the budget and the coming chairs, to turn red lines into yellow ones, and to work constructively towards solutions. This is essential for the OSCE to function as a platform for dialogue, especially in these challenging times.

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Lastly, let me also just mention that we welcome the offer by Cyprus to take on the task of CiO for 2027.

In conclusion, Deputy Prime Minister Borg and your team: We are deeply grateful for your leadership and your hard work this year.

We look forward to 2025 under Finland's stewardship – Minister Valtonen, count on Denmark's full support and friendship as you tackle the challenging tasks ahead.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.