

MC.DEL/55/14  
5 December 2014

ENGLISH  
Original: ITALIAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY  
AT THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST  
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Basel, 5 December 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

Before handing the floor to the delegation of the European Union, whose statement Italy fully supports, I should like to emphasize a point to which my country attaches particular significance.

The OSCE's collaboration with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners is of prime importance for Italy.

The fight against terrorism also involves tackling criminal groups that exploit illegal immigration and even go as far as trafficking in human beings. They may have different agendas, but marriages of convenience between terrorism and organized crime are regrettably a well-known phenomenon that needs to be eliminated in the interests of all of us. Exploiting the desperation of migrants entails criminal acts and funding streams that are comparable with kidnapping for ransom, something we mobilize against together.

I give the floor to the delegation of the European Union.