



**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA H.E. Mr. IVAN MRKIĆ,
19TH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL,
DUBLIN, 6-7 DECEMBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our host and the Chairman-in-Office, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland H.E. Eamon Gilmore and thank him for the extraordinary hospitality. Let me also congratulate the whole Irish Chairmanship team for their dedication and their stewardship during this year in office.

We particularly highly value the Irish initiative to launch Helsinki+40 process and we are looking forward to a frank and comprehensive debate in order to make an assessment where we stand today and how to move forward towards a shared goal of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. We believe the draft ministerial decision on Helsinki + 40 process which should be adopted tomorrow could guide us in our activities until 2015, or even beyond.

Distinguished colleagues,

Since its inception, we have always strongly supported activities of the CSCE/OSCE. In that context, and as an important regional security organization, OSCE has particular added values which have to be utilized in the best possible manner. Among them let me mention only a few: its ability to engage all participating states in a dialogue, comprehensiveness, inclusiveness and flexibility.

As the widest platform for dialogue and despite many problems and sometimes different perceptions, this very nature of the OSCE remains the same from the mid 70-ies up to date. Comprehensive approach to security, which is at the core of its overall activities, encompasses all three dimensions: political-military, economic-environmental and human, as well as number of cross-dimensional issues. Finally, OSCE in our opinion should remain flexible enough to adjust to the new and emerging threats and challenges in order to build a more peaceful and prosperous Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region for the 21st century. Together with full implementation of the OSCE's existing commitments across all dimensions it should bring a marked improvement to the security situation in our region.

However, the prerequisite for moving ahead is to improve confidence among participating States, to dispel the misperceptions sometimes based on lack of trust and generate necessary political will which would additionally strengthen our efforts to tackle problems across the entire OSCE spectrum. In this regard, we have to use momentum created in Astana, draw on the experiences of the Corfu process and V-V dialogue and go further, being both innovative and constructive.

Mr. Chairman,

Based on trust and sincere partnership, Serbia has been developing its relations within the OSCE and with its executive structures, for more than one decade. Not only field presences, but OSCE institutions as well have contributed immensely to the substantive democratic reforms in Serbia and our strategic aspirations towards European integration.

Entering the 21st century, Serbia is more than ever determined to resolve all outstanding issues in a peaceful manner and through dialogue. With firm conviction, we have engaged in an EU led dialogue with Pristina, now entering a new phase at the highest political level. We see this dialogue as the only way of overcoming the current crisis and arriving at sustainable solutions. We are determined to fully implement the arrangements reached thus far and open to discuss all other issues, except the dismantling of Serbia's institutions in Kosovo and Metohija.

Unfortunately, there is no significant improvement of the situation on the ground. There are no basic security conditions, lives and property of non-Albanians continue to be threatened, no progress on safe return for internally displaced persons, and our cultural heritage is jeopardized. Nevertheless, our overall efforts are aimed at a peaceful resolution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija, in accordance with UN SC resolution 1244.

After many troubled years, South-East Europe has entered a new era of cooperation, confidence-building and dialogue. The Republic of Serbia attaches particular importance to this process, and we are ready to reinvigorate our efforts in order to improve cooperation in our region, based on good-neighbourly relations and respecting mutual interests. In that regard, I would like to reiterate our strong commitment to the continuation of the process of reconciliation. Unfortunately, the latest judgments by the ICTY are not conducive to this process. They are seen as leaving families and relatives of victims betrayed by the international justice.

Distinguished colleagues,

As a future chairmanship, Serbia is ready to intensify its activities to contribute to our Organization becoming more efficient and responsive to new threats and challenges. We hope that by the end of 2015, when we meet in Belgrade, we would be in a position to establish milestones and set new tasks for the OSCE. We are aware that this journey will not be an easy one but at the same time we are sure that we can obtain that goal.

With a high level of energy and commitment, Serbia has already commenced the preparations for 2015 OSCE Chairmanship. As we already stated in the Swiss and Serbian joint statement, our sincere dedication is to guide the OSCE during two consecutive chairmanships in an unbiased, transparent and co-operative manner assisted by other members of Troika and in close cooperation with all OSCE structures and institutions. We will be transparent and open with all 57 participating states, acting as an honest broker and ready to address concerns of each and every one. We are convinced that close cooperation with our Swiss partners for consecutive 2014/2015 chairmanships and created synergy enables planning of the OSCE activities in a longer run and has the potential to serve as a model for the future.

In conclusion, let me welcome Mongolia to our OSCE family. I would also like to wish H. E. Kostyantyn Gryshenko, Foreign Minister of Ukraine and incoming Chairman-in-Office, the best of success in 2013 and assure him of our strong support in promoting values and principles of the OSCE. We look forward to working together with our friends from Ukraine and Switzerland towards 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and making this process successful.

Thank you very much.