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Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MASSIMO DREI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY,
AT THE 1377th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 June 2022

In response to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself fully with the statement by the European Union and wishes to add some observations in a national capacity.

Madam Secretary General, our Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has been marked by a tragedy that has changed the course of our history. The aggression against Ukraine is an attack on our principles and values fraught with humanitarian, security and economic repercussions, as already mentioned in the EU statement.

It has been a complex tenure as Presidency, which has required us to deal with an exceptional situation, namely first the suspension and then the expulsion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe, alongside a novel, unprecedented institutional and political path.

In our actions we have been guided by awareness of the challenge and by your support. We have acted in the shared interest of advancing with unity and cohesion towards a choice of great strategic importance, in defence of the credibility of the organization and its founding principles and values, and inspired by the vision of an effective multilateralism that informs our actions at the OSCE as well.

Following this same shared approach, we also immediately took up the challenge of reflecting on the values and ambitions of the Council of Europe, on future challenges and on the need to identify directions and ways of reaffirming our common commitment.

Despite the exceptional circumstances that I have referred to, we prepared and fully implemented a programme packed with events, introducing new but high-profile topics, such as restorative justice, revisiting others, such as the protection of cultural heritage and interreligious dialogue, and delving deeper into processes that are already under way, such as artificial intelligence and protection of the rights of women, children and the most vulnerable.

The decisions adopted at the annual session of the Committee of Ministers in Turin present the clearest possible combination of the work of the Presidency and the ambitions of the member States of the Council of Europe with regard to tackling the challenges faced by the organization as part of a renewed commitment to safeguard the founding principles and values of the Council of Europe.

In implementing such a commitment, it becomes ever more important to strengthen dialogue and co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE so as to ensure that the potential in areas of mutual interest is fully harnessed.

Madam Secretary General, I therefore take this opportunity to reiterate to you and the entire Secretariat the thanks of Minister Di Maio for the intensity and richness of co-operation and dialogue achieved during these six months, and also for the impeccable assistance that you rendered our Presidency.

In closing, I extend my best wishes to our Irish colleagues for the success of their Presidency.

Thank you.