



SHORT STATEMENT

Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

H.E. Miroslav LAJČÁK

OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting

2016 German OSCE Chairmanship

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

Let me first of all highly praise the leadership, courage and patience of Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his team. They managed to steer our Organization throughout this yet another troubled year. I am confident that the incoming Austrian Chairmanship will step up its efforts in attempting to bring about a positive change into the OSCE region. And thus I extend my wishes of success to our Austrian colleagues.

My second point is that we are facing too many old and new challenges. And we have so far just few answers and solutions to them. In these difficult times we must make use of all the instruments we have at hand. And the OSCE is one of the crucial and most relevant. It unites 57 countries of the Northern hemisphere as equal partners crucial to the security of Europe. It offers experience of joint action accumulated over the years. And it has many already agreed tools at its disposal. The OSCE means prevention and this is what we all shall aim at!

So this is no doubt the right Organization where we should through open dialogue:

1/ strive to counter all the challenges as well as threats to peace,

2/ deliver on basic longing of people to live in dignity and security, and,

3/ work with facts rather than myths, with openness compared to secrecy and with good will rather than mistrust.

And my third and last remark is on Slovakia's role in the OSCE. Allow me to offer good services of Slovakia, our experience and determination to peace and stability. And I hereby ask you for your support to the draft decision on the Slovak Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2019.

Mr. Chairman,

Now, with Slovakia holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, I shall pass the floor to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

Thank you!