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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**in response to the Address of H.E. Dr. George W. Vella,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta  
delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1056th Meeting of the OSCE  
Permanent Council  
June 04, 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes H.E. George W. Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta to the Permanent Council and thanks him for the comprehensive address.

Mr. Minister,

Your visit comes at a time of serious challenges for the region of Mediterranean and Middle East.

In your address you highlighted the main security challenges of the Mediterranean region, namely terrorism, violent extremism, illegal migration and the deterioration of security situation in Libya. We concur with your view that these challenges have serious impact on the security of the OSCE area.

Violent extremism and radicalization and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Middle East and Mediterranean are resulting in destruction of religious and ethnic diversity, traditions of peaceful interethnic and interreligious coexistence in these regions. ISII, Al-Nusrah Front and other derivatives and associates of Al-Qaida commit massive and grave human rights violations particularly against Christians and other minority groups.

The Basel Ministerial Declarations on the OSCE role in countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and on the cooperation with Mediterranean Partners acknowledge the need of full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178. The above mentioned resolutions, as well as the UN SC Resolution 2199 identify concrete measures in this regard, among others preventing the movement of terrorist individuals and groups through effective border control, disrupting trade in oil, antiquities and hostages by the ISII, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. We would like to stress the importance of unreserved and full implementation of the

above resolutions and the special role and responsibility of the OSCE participating States in this regard.

Last year a number of issues of urgent nature in regard to the Mediterranean region have been raised at the level of Permanent Council, including by our Delegation. We agree with you on the need to develop the political dialogue with our Mediterranean partners to jointly address the security threats. OSCE is a proper forum for such dialogue. The Mediterranean Contact Group also provides an important venue for regular exchange of views on the issues of common interest.

Mr. Minister,

We are pleased to recall the productive meeting between you and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia H.E. Edward Nalbandian, last year on the sidelines of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel. The meeting helped to reveal perspective areas of development of bilateral cooperation. We are looking forward to continuation of political dialogue between our countries through exchange of high-level visits.

In the end, we would like to wish the distinguished Minister H.E. George W. Wella all success in his future endeavours.

Thank You.