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**Permanent Representation of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
Organization for Security and Co-
operation in Europe (OSCE)**

**OSCE 89th Joint FSC - PC meeting
Vienna, 8 November 2023
BENELUX Statement delivered by Ambassador Christophe Kamp**

Madam Chair, Mr Chair

The Netherlands is one of the Participating States that has notified its intent to suspend the CFE treaty, as well as Belgium and Luxemburg. I would therefore like to deliver this statement on behalf of the BENELUX countries.

As Participating States of a treaty that has been a cornerstone of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, we have taken this decision with deep regret. Since the CFE took effect in 1990, the treaty has contributed immensely to Euro-Atlantic security and stability.

However, the Russian withdrawal from the CFE treaty cannot remain without consequences. Russia's withdrawal comes at a time when Russia is waging an unprovoked, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. These Russian actions are once more leading to a further deterioration of the broader security architecture in Europe.

The CFE Treaty is an important legally binding instrument, which contributes to transparency, security and stability, and mutual confidence in the Euro-Atlantic area, *if* implemented by *all* State Parties. Reciprocity is an essential part of this Treaty. We cannot accept a situation where we remain committed to the implementation of the treaty, while Russia has withdrawn from it.

The three BENELUX countries remain firmly committed to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security based on key principles and commitments, including reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent. Through the Benelux Arms Control Agency, we will continue to implement measures to reduce military risk, with States in the Euro-Atlantic area that share these principles and commitments.

Thank you,