



## **OSCE/UNODC KFR Workshop, Malta, 16-17 September 2014**

### **Opening remarks Ambassador Stephan Husy**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the representative of the Chairman-in-Office, it is a pleasure for me to participate in this workshop, which has been co-organized by the OSCE and UNODC, with the support of Liechtenstein, Spain, and Switzerland, and of course Malta which is hosting us in this prestigious location.

I also would like to address a special thanks to our American colleagues in Malta, in particular Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Wistanley and her staff, who made the first contacts to hold the workshop in this beautiful place. We are very happy that so many representatives of the OSCE Mediterranean partners for cooperation are attending this event.

Malta has become an important place to discuss strategies and methods to counter terrorism. Since June, Malta is also hosting the new Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ) which provides training to justice sector professionals on how to address terrorism and related transnational crimes within a rule of law framework. The IJ will organize a series of training workshops specifically dedicated to KFR, beginning in October.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and President of the Swiss Confederation, Didier Burkhalter has placed counterterrorism high on the OSCE agenda for this year. Switzerland has organized an OSCE-wide conference on the role of the OSCE in addressing current terrorist challenge in April, in Interlaken, where participating States, as well as partners for cooperation discussed Kidnapping for Ransom as one of the three main topics.

Our workshop during the next two days is a follow up of Interlaken, and it is another important milestone with a view to achieve concrete results at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel in December 2014. For success, the support of the OSCE participating States will be essential.

There is plenty of evidence that kidnapping for ransom has become an important source of revenues for terrorist organizations and networks – a trend which must be countered rigorously. Ransom payments finance future terrorist activities and fuel further kidnappings. As a response, a unified no-ransom front is required: terrorists must not benefit from criminal acts. At the same time, all efforts have to be undertaken to prevent terrorist kidnappings and hostage takings. And in case they happen, governments should cooperate closely and undertake all efforts to achieve the safe and unharmed release of the victims.

In January 2014, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2133, dedicated solely to Kidnapping for Ransom. It also recognizes the need to continue expert discussions on the topic within the UN and regional organizations. The Swiss Chairmanship is convinced that the OSCE plays an important role in both promoting this issue and enhancing the necessary spirit of cooperation, and we would like to congratulate the OSCE, Transnational Threats Department as well as the UNODC, Terrorism Prevention Branch for their important efforts to make the world a safer place to live.

Thank you.