

AS DELIVERED

STATEMENT

by the State Secretary for Foreign Policy of Denmark
Her Excellency Lone Dencker Wisborg
at the Plenary Session of the 22nd OSCE Ministerial Council
3 December 2015, Belgrade

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark fully subscribes to the statement delivered by High Representative Mogherini on behalf of the EU, in which she addressed the magnitude of security challenges facing our region and beyond, including the threat of terrorism.

For the second year in a row, the OSCE region – and indeed the OSCE itself – has been marked by the crisis in and around Ukraine. The OSCE's founding principles have been undermined: the principles of sovereignty, inviolability of frontiers, the territorial integrity of states.

We recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognised borders, and we will not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea.

A sustainable political solution to the crisis requires the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. All parties must take concrete steps to this end, both at the negotiation table and, most importantly, on the ground. We stress Russia's responsibility in this regard, and call on Russia to exert its considerable influence on the separatists to uphold their commitments. Ukraine must do its bit too.

Denmark has strongly supported the OSCE's robust engagement throughout the crisis and our support will continue.

We will stand firm in our protection of the OSCE founding principles and in our support to the autonomous institutions and their strong and independent mandates.

We will continue to seek a strengthening of confidence-building measures and military transparency in the OSCE-region, including by supporting the modernisation of the Vienna Document next year. And we will further our efforts to safeguard and strengthen human rights. In particular we will continue to promote full implementation of freedom of the media and free speech.

Denmark will also remain at the forefront of promoting torture prevention in the OSCE region notably through implementation of the Convention Against Torture Initiative.

We thank the Serbian Chairmanship for their hard work and contribution throughout this year, and we look forward to close cooperation with the incoming German Chairmanship.

Thank you.