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Delegation of Belgium

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. DIDIER NAGANT DE DEUXCHAISNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM TO THE OSCE, AT THE
1041st MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 March 2023

Belgium fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Nevertheless, I wish to add some remarks in a national capacity.

For more than a year now, the OSCE has been faced with the veritable tragedy constituted by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, which is inflicting unspeakable human suffering and leading to the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure. Given that the aggressor State has broken the most basic trust between participating States, our common security architecture lies in ruins.

In these difficult times that the OSCE is going through, Belgium is convinced of the need to continue the politico-military discussion at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) with a view to addressing the challenges that are unsettling our region. In addition, we should like to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina as the current holder of the FSC Chairmanship for its unceasing efforts to preserve the conditions for such dialogue, and this despite the fact that one delegation has demonstrated its rejection of dialogue by blocking the agenda of one of your meetings – a sorry first in our history. Minister, I wish to commend the tireless efforts and the steadfast personal commitment of your team here at the OSCE, which is doing everything to safeguard the FSC's effectiveness, the difficult circumstances notwithstanding.

Today's meeting is the last one for Belgium as a member of the FSC Troika. The past year has seen our Organization enter "survival mode". Nevertheless, as we leave the Troika we are convinced that the guns will fall silent one day and that our Organization and this Forum will then be able to again pursue their ambition of helping to ensure security and co-operation in Europe and achieve peace – a genuine peace, one that is fair and lasting.

There is a long way to go yet. In the meantime, we assure Ukraine of our unfailing support, express our gratitude to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the work accomplished, welcome Bulgaria as the incoming FSC Chairmanship and welcome Canada to the Troika.