



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

MC.DEL/44/14  
5 December 2014

ENGLISH only

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## **Conference Services**

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Nikola Poposki made at the 21<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Council, Basel, 4-5 December 2014, is being distributed to all delegations.



**Republic of Macedonia  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**ADDRESS**

**By**

**H.E. NIKOLA POPOSKI  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia**

**at the**

**21th MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

*Basel, 4-5 December 2014*

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Thank you for your warm welcome.**

**I would like to congratulate the Chairman in Office and the Swiss Presidency for their efforts and engagement in addressing the challenges that the region of the OSCE has experienced in 2014.**

**The proactive approach of the Swiss Presidency has proved critical regarding the crisis in and around Ukraine. The geo-political implications of the crisis have revealed and reconfirmed number of hypotheses.**

**Two of them I would like to underline:**

**First, the crisis has questioned the understanding of the present European security architecture, but one can argue that it has had a wider impact.**

**Second, a consequential one, related to the necessity to increase the credibility of the international actors and processes for prevention, managing and restoring shattered trust and confidence.**

**Under the Swiss presidency, OSCE appeared as a fitting answer to the new security challenges. It re-emerged pertinent to address the urgency and difficulty of crisis situations. The OSCE embarked robustly from the very outset of the Ukrainian crisis, relying on all its capacities, and involving all executive bodies and institutions.**

**As a Participating-state, the Republic of Macedonia is aiming for diplomatic and peaceful solution of the Ukrainian crisis. The latter has no alternative and depends heavily on the respect and enforcement of the signed agreements.**

**The Minsk Accords, which aim to stop the hostilities and restore peace and stability to all of Ukraine, represent milestone on this road. In order to see bold progress, the Accords must be consistently implemented and completely effectuated. Efforts should be sustainable. All concerned sides must assume a constructive role, and moreover bear responsibility during these fragile times.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The role of the OSCE in the Ukrainian crisis is of great importance for the people of Ukraine, but also for us as an Organization. We should revise both our strategic planning and performance carefully, draw conclusions and rely on the lessons learned. The main question which arises at the moment is not whether the OSCE engagement is sufficient, but what the OSCE could do more if there is no willingness to implement the agreements reached.**

**In this regard, we should continue to relentlessly support the work of both the Trilateral Contact Group and the Observation Missions, as their role has been instrumental.**

**The Ukraine crisis has again proven that conflict management is a joint venture that requires a streamlined multistakeholder approach. The OSCE should definitely bank on the inter-operability with other international actors. Yet we should not cease to invest in our capability to act and further bolster our Organization.**

**We should focus on the values and principles compiled in the Helsinki Final Act almost 40 years ago and further refine them to reflect today's realities. Modernizing our political documents and practical mechanisms means empowering our capacities as an organization. Thus, I would like to call for endorsement of all relevant decisions aiming to improve our response to various security challenges ranging from 'hard security,' to environmental and human security.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Today, twenty-five years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, we must restore trust and boost confidence. We should never forget Cold War's legacy. For creating a reputable and relevant regional organization, able to cope with the contemporary challenges, the OSCE must be purpose and context oriented in its activities.**

**At the end, Mr. Chairman, allow me to reaffirm Republic of Macedonia's commitment to OSCE mission, values and principles.**

**Let me conclude by wishing the Serbian Presidency a successful year.**