

**OSCE Ministerial Council, Kyiv 5-6 December 2013**

**Statement by H.E. Kim Jørgensen,**

**Secretary of State for Foreign policy, Denmark**

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Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank you and your dedicated staff for your efforts in preparing this meeting. Throughout the year we have experienced a professional and efficient Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE.

My government aligns itself with the statement made by Deputy Secretary General for the European External Actions Service Helga Schmid on behalf of the EU.

The OSCE is a unique organization with a wide ranging set of commitments, including in regard to the freedom of expression and assembly. We urge Ukraine, as the Chairman of the OSCE, to promote and exemplify these commitments. We join others in expressing our serious concern about the excessive use of force against peaceful protesters.

We welcome the statement by the Ukrainian chairmanship stating its intentions to investigate these incidents. We note the governments wish to continue the pursuit of modernisation and urge the

government and the civil society to engage in a structured dialogue in this endeavour.

Mr Chairman,

Denmark strongly supports the OSCE as a key forum of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security and highly values the work of the OSCE field operations and the autonomous institutions.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, it is worth looking back at the values and principles that make the OSCE so unique. The comprehensive concept of security, that has at its core the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, continues to be a solid foundation for peace and stability in our region. This concept should continue to guide us as we prepare for marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. Denmark is committed to a result-oriented Helsinki+40 process that leads to a stronger and more effective OSCE.

Our region is facing new threats and new uncertainties. Some of these, such as cyber-attacks, transnational terrorism and trafficking, challenge our region and our societies. We need to continue developing the capacity of the OSCE to address these threats.

The increasingly strategic role of Central Asia, also against the background of the transition in Afghanistan, entails new opportunities

as well as new challenges. My government appreciates the OSCE's engagement in this region, including its contribution to strengthening border security and border management, enhancing cross border co-operation and promoting development and security through activities in all three dimensions. We would welcome a declaration on Afghanistan at this meeting and we stand ready to continue providing voluntary contributions to field operations in Central Asia.

The threat stemming from cyber-attacks is an issue of serious concern. Cyber-attacks on governments have become a daily reality. We believe the recent breakthrough achieved in the area of confidence building measures in relation to Cyber Security is of particular importance. The OSCE may again be at the forefront of building confidence between states faced with a new and formidable threat.

However, in dealing with new threats, we should not forget the old ones. The conventional arms controls regime in Europe of today is in crisis, and if we want to maintain and improve a viable system of cooperative security in Europe, we need to re-design it to take into account new realities. In this respect, the OSCE could have a vital role to play in building more confidence and increase mutual transparency. We hope the circumstances will allow this topic to feature prominently on the OSCE agenda in the year to come.

Another threat to the stability of the OSCE region is the protracted conflicts. We highly value the Ukrainian chair for its tireless efforts in dealing with the conflicts.

Mr Chairman,

Tangible progress in the human dimension, including through the full implementation of commitments, is indispensable if we are to advance towards a genuine security community. Media freedom – online and offline – is a necessary part of every free and democratic society. We would therefore regret if no decision on protection of journalists is adopted at this meeting. Many current events underline the necessity for demonstrating the will to act on the need for such protection in order to create modern societies in all of the OSCE-region. This was also underlined by the Representative on Freedom of the Media at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September.

Mr Chairman,

The Ukrainian chairmanship has achieved important results for the OSCE. We are now looking forward to working with the Swiss Chairman-in-Office next year and we welcome the joint cooperative approach of the Swiss and the following Serbian Chairmanship. They can count on our full support.

Thank you for your attention.