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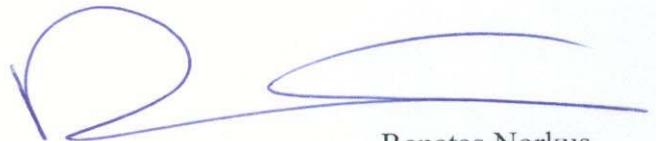
Dear Colleagues,

The Chairmanship has the honour to forward to your attention the joint letter and statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia addressed to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E. Audronius Ažubalis on their agreement to submit a joint application for two consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE in 2014 and 2015.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

ENCLOSURE: Letter and Joint statement, 2 pages

Yours sincerely,



Renatas Norkus
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

All Delegations to the OSCE
OSCE Secretary General

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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Head of the
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Bern and Belgrade, 2 December 2011

Excellency, dear Colleague,

We have the honour to inform you that our Governments have decided to present a joint application for the consecutive chairmanships of the OSCE in 2014 and in 2015. With a view to further improving the effectiveness and increasing the value-added of our organization, we have agreed to establish common priorities and a biennial work plan. We are committed to cooperating closely within the OSCE troika in order to ensure balanced and transparent decision-making on all issues of critical importance to participating States, in full respect of all fundamental principles and rules of this organisation.

We have agreed to issue a joint statement in order to present the cornerstones of our successive chairmanships to the participating States. The text of this joint statement is attached for your information. We would be grateful if you could circulate our letter including its annex to the participating States and issue a draft decision about the chairmanships for 2014 and for 2015, to be adopted by the Ministerial Council.

We are convinced that a close cooperation of consecutive chairmanships is beneficial for the work of the OSCE and contributes to the achievement of our organization's vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

Please accept, Excellency, dear Colleague, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Micheline Calmy-Rey
Federal Councillor

Vuk Jeremic
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
Mr Audronius Azubalis
Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE
Vilnius



Joint Statement

1. We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia, have agreed to submit a joint candidature for two consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE in 2014 and 2015 and confirm our determination to work together, guided by the participating States and in accordance with OSCE decisions, to consolidate peace, prosperity and democracy in the OSCE region.
2. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.
3. We are strongly committed to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, affirmed in subsequent OSCE documents, and reconfirmed in the Astana Commemorative Declaration.
4. We reiterate our commitment to the concept, initiated in the Final Act, of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, which relates to the maintenance of peace, to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-state relations.
5. We reaffirm that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security and that commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the state concerned.
6. We stress the importance of the work carried out by the OSCE field operations, in particular in South-Eastern Europe, in enhancing stability and security throughout the OSCE region and underline our commitment to further promote and strengthen the activities of field operations in accordance with existing practice.
7. We emphasize that addressing unresolved disputes in the OSCE area, based on peaceful negotiated settlements in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, remains our joint priority. To this end, we will seek to give a new impetus to existing mechanisms and dialogues. We are fully committed to the EU-led dialogue and to promote constructive momentum on the ground, with a view to facilitating progress toward negotiated settlement and building renewed confidence.
8. We reaffirm our determination to cooperate closely as in-coming chairmanships and during our respective chairmanships in order to ensure their smooth functioning in any kind of situation.
9. We emphasize our sincere dedication to guide the OSCE in two consecutive chairmanships over the years 2014 (Switzerland) and 2015 (Serbia) in an unbiased, transparent and co-operative manner assisted by the Troika members and in close co-operation with all OSCE structures and institutions.
10. We underline that in preparing and conducting the respective chairmanships we have agreed, in an innovative approach, to consult and co-operate closely, among others by agreeing on a biennial workplan, co-ordinating priorities, agendas and modalities of the respective chairmanships; exchanging diplomats during both chairmanships; *appointing Special Representatives* and assisting each other in the accomplishment of given tasks, as appropriate.