

21st Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Basel, 05-DEC-2014

Statement by

H.E. Tomislav Leko, Head of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

on

**Plenary Session II: “Fight against Terrorism:
Common Challenges within and beyond the OSCE area”**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

While Bosnia and Herzegovina fully subscribes to the EU Statement, delivered earlier on this topic, we would like to add a couple of remarks in our national capacity:

At the outset, we join the others in thanking the Ministers of Turkey, Malta and Thailand for their opening interventions, which were both insightful and thought-provoking.

Indeed, as the scourge of terrorism sweeps across the OSCE realm and beyond, the fight against terrorism is becoming one of the most relevant topics, together with its splinter issues – those of foreign terrorist fighters and kidnapping for ransom.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to the global fight against terrorism. This was reaffirmed just a few days ago by our Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), where he expressed Bosnia and Herzegovina’s continuing readiness to actively contribute to the global coalition’s activities to counter terrorism, as this represents one of the greatest threats to the freedom and democracy in the world.

As a country confronted with war and horrendous atrocities in the nineties, under similar pretexts used by various terrorist groups today, Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly condemns any kind of discrimination against any religion or any ethnical group because of their faith or belief.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is particularly active in preventing so called “Foreign Fighters” to leave for war zones, through enactment of relevant amendments to the criminal code, whereas the provisions regarding the fight against terrorism are already in place.

This year's OSCE Mediterranean Conference, held in Neum, together with our partners from the Mediterranean Contact Group, offered a good frame for insightful and timely discussion on the fight against terrorism in the Mediterranean region – in addition to the related issue of small arms and light weapons.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is Bosnia and Herzegovina's conviction that the goal to stop terrorism can only be achieved if the global community stands united in a comprehensive and common approach towards creation and promotion of shared societies and shared values. The virtues of OSCE commitments in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law create a highly valuable toolbox to be utilized in this fight.

I thank you,