

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CLAUDE GIORDAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONACO,
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Dublin, 6 December 2012

Mr. Chairperson,
Ministers,
Colleagues and friends,

According to Spinoza, peace is not just the absence of war, but above all “a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice”.

In this respect, the past year has been particularly difficult. Against the background of an economic and financial crisis, we have been faced with a multitude of security challenges at the gates of the OSCE area: the Syrian conflict, tensions with Iran, the rise of Israeli-Palestinian tensions and the situation in Afghanistan, to which may be added the difficulties within our own area, particularly the continued existence of long-term conflicts.

It is within this context that Ireland has made considerable efforts to lead our Organization on the way to adaptation.

I am particularly honoured and pleased to be with you today and to represent the Principality of Monaco at this Council. This allows me to tell you how much the Principality unreservedly supports the Helsinki+40 process and – how could it be otherwise – the Monaco Declaration, hoping that it will be given a strong impetus to permit a continuation of the work initiated at the Astana Summit.

We hope that this process will be the instrument we can use to implement the orientations defined in December 2010. It is important to remember that the Astana declaration was not just a commemorative act. It affirmed first of all the validity of all the commitments undertaken by the participating States and also expressed a vision for the future of a security community for the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space. It is true that no action plan was adopted, but this Summit of Heads of State or Government mandated future chairmanships to develop one.

Monaco therefore welcomes the useful contribution of the Initiative for the Development of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community (IDEAS) report drafted following seminars in Berlin, Warsaw, Paris and Moscow on defining the construction objectives.

My country firmly believes that the OSCE should assume its responsibilities in full and continue to act as a model of stability and dialogue.

For that reason, Monaco would like to participate, in keeping with its means, in the efforts undertaken within the OSCE and it is with this in mind that the Principality intends to assume the chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation, which will devolve upon it in 2014. We shall commence our work in 2013 in a spirit of co-operation with all the States present here who wish it.

In the meantime, the Principality is keen to step up its activities to combat trafficking in human beings. This is being done through an increase in our extrabudgetary contributions and through greater commitment in the field by means of projects supported by the OSCE.

In that regard, we appreciate and fully support the work of Ms. Giammarinaro who, in her capacity as Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, clearly expressed her commitment to this cause to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco on 20 March this year.

In the same perspective, the Principality highly appreciates the initiative undertaken with other small OSCE participating States (Andorra, Liechtenstein and San Marino) since 2010 to support children without parental care in Moldova.

In 2012 the Principality of Monaco also joined in the co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners and continues to closely follow events on the other side of our common sea.

My country was extremely honoured to host the annual meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 5 to 9 July 2012. It is determined to continue these efforts and has earmarked resources for this.

The Principality wishes in this way to affirm its respect for and attachment to the values and principles at the heart of the OSCE while respecting the rights connected with our sovereignty.

The citizens of Monaco will be going to the polls early next year to elect the members of our Legislative Assembly. Monaco has therefore invited the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to observe these elections on 10 February 2013.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to end my statement by welcoming the admission of Mongolia to the OSCE. This should be seen as a strong sign of the appeal that our Organization continues to exert. We look forward to being able to work with this country.

I should also like to assure the Ukrainian Chairmanship of our support throughout its work.

In conclusion, I should like to join others in expressing my thanks to the Irish OSCE Chairmanship for the quality of its work and for the excellence of its most cordial welcome.

If you will excuse my pronunciation, I will attempt to do so in Gaelic: “Go raibh maith agat”. I have been told that you express thanks by saying “may the goodness be on you”. What better sentiment for this place?