



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

MC.DEL/62/15  
11 December 2015

ENGLISH only

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**Conference Services**

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached address by H.E. Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Council, Belgrade, 3-4 December 2015, is being distributed to all delegations.



**Republic of Macedonia**

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**ADDRESS**

**By**

**H.E. NIKOLA POPOSKI**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia**

**At the**

**22nd OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**Belgrade, 3-4 December 2015**

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

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Serbian friends and neighbors for the warm welcome and congratulate them on the successful organization of the 22nd OSCE Ministerial Council.

I congratulate Chairman in Office Dačić and the Serbian Presidency for their engagement and diplomatic stagecraft in addressing the challenges the OSCE region experienced in 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join others to express my sincere condolences to the families and relatives of victims of the terrorist attacks that stroke many countries in the OSCE region and beyond.

Terrorism should not and will not win. The emerging security challenges are troubling all our societies. For that reason, Macedonia is fully determined to implement all OSCE commitments, particularly those related to combating terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. We shall remain united and reinforce our efforts in preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization.

Thus, we reaffirm strongly our support to the adoption of the last year Declaration on the OSCE role in countering the phenomenon of foreign fighters in the context of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178 from 2014. These documents, along with other relevant OSCE undertakings are clear evidence of our Organization's contribution to the global counterterrorism endeavors. We shall further explore options and modalities on how can our Organization most efficiently contribute to the efforts aiming at suppression of these ills.

Mr. Chairman,

The crisis in and out of Ukraine reaffirmed the relevance of the OSCE in the international security arena. It also bolstered the calls coming from those supporting further strengthening of our Organization, inclusive our role in Ukraine. On the other hand, the Ukraine crisis has again proven that conflict management requires a streamlined multistakeholder approach. In this regard, we should continue to relentlessly support the work of both the Trilateral Contact

Group and the Observation Missions as their role is crucial for the overall crisis resolution.

In addition, it also challenged us to initiate our deliberations on how OSCE has to adapt itself to the new circumstances and the security context.

Mr Chairman,

These days we are also witnessing a dramatic refugee crisis, unprecedented in our recent history. 600.000 migrants transited Macedonia since the beginning of this year. The government puts strong efforts in managing the mixed refugee and migrant flow. Our authorities, in cooperation with UNHCR, IOM, Red Cross and other humanitarian NGO's active on the ground, have been doing their utmost to provide the much needed humanitarian assistance.

The present migrant and refugee crisis represents a major humanitarian, socio-economic and security challenge for the large part of the OSCE region and has even a potential to negatively affect the relationship between some of the participating states. This complex phenomenon exceeds national borders and hence global coordinated action in addressing its root causes and implications is essential.

OSCE cannot ignore its diverse implications. Therefore we should focus on finding a response and tools on both political and practical level within the human and the economic dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

Dear friends,

I believe it is important in these challenging times to reaffirm our strong commitment to the values and principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

Today's realities requires its full observance. Our Organization cannot accept different path.

Let me conclude by wishing the German Presidency a successful year.