



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE**

Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus at the 1065th Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (13 December 2023)

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank the Chairpersonship of Canada, your team and you personally dear Ambassador Kinnear, for the leadership displayed throughout your tenure, the excellent conduct of the FSC and Troika meetings and especially for the constructive and innovative Security Dialogues organized.

Cyprus appreciates your work as Chair under very difficult political circumstances and thanks you for having invested so much time and efforts in this task. It is evident that your FSC Chair succeeded in promoting stimulating discussions on the security challenges of the politico - military dimension according to the mandate of the FSC.

I feel especially obliged to thank the Canadian Chairpersonship for the constructive security dialogues organized, which managed to bring to the forefront of this Forum's discussions, both pressing and challenging security issues.

We especially commend the Canada for the innovative decision to elaborate on the issue of mental health impacts of war, which Cyprus strongly believes was both relevant and timely, considering the current security situation in the OSCE area, especially the war of aggression against Ukraine.

We are going through difficult times due to the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and I can assure you that we, as incoming Chair, will remain committed to preserving the values on which this organization has been built on, in line with the values and principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

Madame Chair,

Cyprus assumes the Chair of the FSC with a high sense of responsibility, and with the commitment to further promote and advance the knowledge that has emerged from the Canadian Chair, in close cooperation with the members of the Troika. We also believe that introducing a question-and-answer session following the panelists interventions at the Security Dialogues, was very innovative and constructive, since it gave the opportunity to Participating States to become more engaged and promoted a lively discussion. To this end, Cyprus aims to continue this successful practice during its Chair.

Madame Chair,

once again congratulations for a successful Chair and we reassure you that Cyprus remains committed to building on the expertise and knowledge that has emerged from your Chairpersonship. I would like to thank also all the participating states, who expressed, today, their support for our forthcoming chair. Special thanks also to Bulgaria and warm welcome to Croatia as the new member of the Troika.

Madam chair, dear colleagues,

Cyprus acting with full acknowledgement of the responsibility and always guided by the full respect to the international law will exercise its Chair with high sense of duty.

Thank you,