



**EMBASSY & PERMANENT MISSION
OF DENMARK**
Vienna

Danish national statement at the 1488th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. On the presentation by incoming CiO of the priorities of the Finnish Chairpersonship.

[Full text as an abridged version was delivered during the meeting]

Thank you [madam] chair.

Minister Valtonen, we join others in welcoming you to the Permanent Council and we thank you for outlining the goals and priorities for your upcoming Chairpersonship.

Let me stress at the outset that you will have our complete confidence and full support as you guide the organization through what unfortunately looks to be yet another difficult year.

In 2025, it will be 50 years since we signed the Helsinki Final Act and thereby pledged to adhere to the fundamental principles of the Decalogue, including respect for territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, and respect for human rights. Sadly, it seems likely that this anniversary will be marked under the shadow of Russia's illegal war of aggression in contravention of those freely agreed principles.

We therefore strongly support your intention to place the respect for our common commitments, and our obligation to support Ukraine throughout these trying times, at the front and center of your programme. We are seeking to promote the same aims as Chair of the FSC this trimester.

It is evident that a lot of careful consideration and thorough consultation has gone into preparing your priorities, and we commend your focused and targeted approach. Your overall ambition to strengthen resilience both in the region and in the OSCE itself is both admirable and necessary.

The OSCE possesses a highly relevant set of tools for dialogue, confidence building and progress towards settlement of conflicts. Finland has already demonstrated its commitment to making that toolbox available and relevant to all participating states.

The comprehensive concept of security is an important part of what makes the OSCE unique and provides it with comparative advantage in the multilateral space. Resilience is therefore also of essence in protecting the OSCE in all of its three dimensions. An OSCE for the next 50 years is an OSCE with a strong third dimension.

Finally, and though this should really go without saying, we strongly support your intention to ensure a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and inclusion. As recent discussions have demonstrated clearly, this should by no means be taken for granted.

[Madam] Chair,

As participating states, we have a number of tasks ahead of us in the coming months to ensure that the Finnish chairpersonship can devote itself fully to building a resilient organization for the future. We must reach agreement on the four top positions, on the budget, and on Finland's successor as CiO.

Denmark supports the current Maltese Chairpersonship in their efforts to reach consensus in a timely and efficient manner. We will also support the Finnish chairpersonship in seeking innovative solutions to increase efficiency and ensure strategic vision behind the OSCE's institutional processes. Let us work together to ensure that institutional issues are no longer allowed to consume such a large proportion of the OSCE's capacity and resources – when we have so many other important issues to address.

Minister Valtonen,

Rest assured that Finland will have our support and our friendship as you tackle the daunting tasks ahead. We wish you and your very able team here in Vienna all the best for your tenure as Chair-in-Office.