



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

STATEMENT OF ITALY'S UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BENEDETTO DELLA VEDOVA, TO THE HIGH-LEVEL INAUGURATION MEETING OF THE RENEWED OSCE EUROPEAN SECURITY DIALOGUE

Vienna, 8 February 2022

Mr Chair,

I would like first to congratulate the Polish Chair for this timely initiative, a welcomed effort to set in motion – hopefully - a renewed process of dialogue on European Security.

The need for establishing an informal forum where ideas and proposals could take shape on how to regenerate the seeds of dialogue derives from the deterioration and current tensions in the security situation in our region. The OSCE stands out as a unique forum where addressing and discussing such situation, as it is the most comprehensive and inclusive regional security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

Against this backdrop, the proposal for a Renewed OSCE European Security Dialogue provides for a precious opportunity, one we should not miss, to recommit ourselves once again to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. I underline the word “indivisible” because, when it relates to security, it is open to wide interpretation and I believe this to be the crux of the matter.

That vision is based upon and takes inspiration from our common adherence to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments that, starting from the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent Charter of Paris for a New Europe, have been adopted by the Participating States. Indeed, it is one and indivisible body of political guidance that we should refer to in order to retrieve the spirit of dialogue and compromise that underpinned the birth of our Organization, rightly evoked as “the spirit of Helsinki”.

The crisis and conflicts in our region are not the only reminder of how far we have gone from the “spirit of Helsinki”, as divisions and lack of trust all too often derail attempts to build up consensus within our Organization even on routine decisions.

We commend the efforts put by the Polish Chair into launching this dialogue, but we should not forget that a joint effort is required from all of us to stand up to the challenges we are all facing and to honour the political commitments we have all signed up to.

Our engagement in the renewed dialogue should mark a departure from the diplomacy of attrition to the one of constructive dialogue, preserving those valuable profiles of our Organization, which are inclusiveness and comprehensiveness. Above all, rationality must prevail. When confronting new ideas for confidence and security-building measures, particularly in the political-military domain and in the area of arms control in Europe, our discussions should not be driven by emotion, nor by ideas that would take us back to the past. Creativity is always welcomed but in such circumstances there is no space for taking risks.

Mr Chair, as to the details of your proposal, we fully agree with the need to leverage upon the possibility of having the joint involvement of Vienna and capitals. The three identified clusters highlight relevant issues for discussion where hopefully concrete progress can be made.

Mr Chair,

in concluding, I would like to reiterate our strong support to this initiative, and our hope that it will enjoy the full and positive engagement of all the Participating States.