



## **HIGH-LEVEL INAUGURATION MEETING OF THE RENEWED OSCE EUROPEAN SECURITY DIALOGUE**

**Statement by Dr Stanislav Raščan,  
Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary of the Republic of Slovenia,  
Vienna, 8 February 2022**

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let me first warmly congratulate Poland on the assumption of the OSCE Chairmanship.

The launch of the renewed OSCE European security dialogue proposed by Chairman-in-Office Zbigniew Rau could not be timelier, and we support this initiative aimed at addressing broader security aspects in Europe. By doing so, we should insist on the adherence to the existing European security architecture.

The OSCE is a relevant platform for discussing all dimensions of the comprehensive concept of security. The principles and norms enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and in the Paris and Istanbul charters remain as applicable as ever, including the right of every state to freely choose its own future and foreign policy orientation, and to clearly reject the notion of spheres of influence.

We have to find a way to rebuild trust, transparency and cooperation. Inclusive dialogue is essential; Slovenia stands ready to participate in these endeavours and has full confidence in the Polish Chair to take the lead in the proposed renewed dialogue within the OSCE.

The process outlined, together with proposed thematic clusters and timeframe, provide a good starting point to reinvigorate discussions and strengthen security to the benefit of all.

*Excellencies,*

In conclusion, let me repeat that the OSCE is a unique forum for discussing security concerns among all 57 participating states. The initiatives that aim to strengthen political dialogue are always welcome and it is up to us, of course, to engage in the spirit of true cooperation in order to reach our common goal – greater security for all.

*Thank you.*