

MC.DEL/1/18
5 December 2018

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SAN MARINO AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Milan, 6 and 7 December 2018

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to thank our neighbour Italy for its generous hospitality here in Milan and congratulate it most sincerely on the excellent work it has carried out.

The Republic of San Marino regards multilateralism as an essential element of the peaceful and sustainable coexistence of States and recognizes dialogue as an instrument for overcoming tensions. Despite the problems of multilateralism, my country will continue to contribute to dialogue in all of the bodies to which it belongs.

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the most critical aspects in connection with maintaining security and democratic stability is without doubt the crisis in the world of information. The changed technological framework has given rise to a phenomenon that San Marino strongly deplores, namely so-called “fake news”. Disinformation is a poison that pollutes the wells of our communities. A flow of fresh and clean water is essential for addressing the major challenges on the international geopolitical scene.

The Government of San Marino has therefore decided to organize an international conference on the subject of “fake news” in San Marino next May. This event will provide an opportunity to shed light on this complex and continuously evolving problem, bringing together experts from this sector and international personalities with a view to identifying a way of re-establishing a healthy and constructive information flow, while ensuring the safety of journalists and their work, respecting human rights and operating in the supreme interest of our populations and in the service of truth.

The recent visit to San Marino by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli offered a fruitful opportunity for discussion at the institutional level of cybercrime, the protection of cultural heritage, and the subject of migration. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Nicola Renzi was pleased to hear confirmed by the President that micro-States make an invaluable contribution to the work and functioning of international organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to monitor the conflict situations in the OSCE area, in particular in Ukraine. We reiterate our respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and fully support the missions in the field.

San Marino urges all of the parties to the conflict to comply with the Minsk agreements and to respect international humanitarian law.

In collaboration with other international organizations, it is possible to find an answer to global problems such as the management of migrant and refugee flows. cursory solutions open the way to affronts to human dignity, violence, abuses, exploitation and trafficking in human beings. We have a responsibility together to protect the most vulnerable.

The pooling of our efforts, together with the promotion of information and education, are the most effective antidotes to xenophobia, intolerance and racism.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I should like to confirm the support of San Marino for the OSCE and all of its independent institutions, the Parliamentary Assembly and the field missions, which form the Organization's backbone.

I should like to express my best wishes to the incoming Slovak Chairmanship and to the Albanian Chairmanship that will follow it.