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**Speaking points for**  
**Igor CRNADAK**

**Minister for Foreign affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers**

on the occasion of the  
**Ceremony for the opening for signature of the  
Additional Protocol to  
the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of terrorism**  
(Riga, 22 October 2015)

Dear Ministers,  
Dear Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be here today for the ceremony for the opening for signature of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of terrorism. I want to thank Minister RINKĒVIČS for having offered to host this event in the beautiful city of Riga.

One of the priorities of the Council of Europe and also of the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the fight against terrorism as this is a major threat to our shared values of respect for human rights and a democratic society based on tolerance and mutual understanding.

The numerous terrorists attacks that have taken place throughout Europe since the beginning of the year, starting in Paris and Copenhagen, followed by the city of Zvornik in my own country and finally more recently in Suruc and Ankara in Turkey, are a sad reminder of the tragic impact terrorism has on our societies. Many people have lost their lives or have been seriously injured. Many families have been devastated. Beyond these individual tragedies, the very foundations of our democratic States have also been shaken. Intolerance, hatred and antagonistic speeches are unfortunately on the rise against Muslim communities which have for a very long time been living peacefully in our societies and want to continue to do so.

The Council of Europe's legal arsenal in the fight against terrorism has been strengthened by the adoption and opening for signature of this important Protocol on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. When I became Chairman of the Committee of Ministers at the Ministerial Session held in Brussels last May, I undertook to ensure that the Protocol – which was adopted at the Session - would soon be opened for signature. I stressed how important it was that member States sign and ratify it promptly in order to further strengthen the fight against the growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

I am extremely pleased to see so many member States represented here today in Riga to sign the Protocol and I also welcome the signature by the European Union of the Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol.

I would like to add that I am proud to sign the Protocol on behalf of my country, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I hope that other Council of Europe member States as well as non-member States will follow shortly. Terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters are obviously global threats which require joint action at the widest possible level worldwide. I am glad that representatives of some of our Observer States are here with us today.

We must pool our means not only between and among States, but also with other international organisations. The Protocol that we are going to sign today will assist member States with the implementation of Resolution 2178 (2014) adopted by the United Nations Security Council in September 2014.

It is in this spirit of cooperation among international organisations that I participated, as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in the Special Meeting of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee on "stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters" in Madrid last July.

The excellent co-operation that exists between the Council of Europe, the UN, the EU, the OSCE and others in this area must continue and be deepened. I am glad that the three organisations I just mentioned are present here today and I would like to inform you that no later than tomorrow, there will be a meeting in Vienna to discuss joint action by the Council of Europe and the OSCE in the fight against terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Fighting effectively terrorism requires solid legal means but not only. We need also to address the root causes of this scourge, in particular through education and by combatting social exclusion and offering better prospects to young people. The Council of Europe is uniquely positioned to help find the right response as it has a number of tools and expertise that can help member States in their efforts to

prevent extremism and radicalisation. I would like to mention in this connection the Action Plan adopted at the Ministerial Session in Brussels last May, which provides for a number of concrete activities to be carried out until 2017.

Among the areas covered by the Action Plan, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Chairmanship has retained the promotion of intercultural dialogue as one of its priorities. In this perspective, we will host the annual "Council of Europe Exchange on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue" in Sarajevo on 2-3 November.

The main theme of the Exchange will be "Building Inclusive Societies Together". Under this heading, the Exchange will address the need to work together to prevent radicalisation and extremism and will seek to identify innovative and successful ways to do so. I hope that as many countries and international organisations as possible will attend this event.

Before I conclude, let me underline the Committee of Ministers firm attachment to the Council of Europe's fundamental principle which is that human rights must be respected in all circumstances, including in the fight against terrorism. I would like to refer in this context to the Guidelines on human rights and the fight against terrorism adopted by the Committee in 2002 on the basis of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Respecting human rights is essential if we want to win the battle against terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Both in my capacity as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I cannot stress enough the importance of a rapid entry into force of the instrument that we are opening for signature today. I hope that the Additional Protocol will be soon be widely signed and ratified by member States.

I thank you for your attention.