



## DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

### STATEMENT

1189<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

#### Agenda item 1.

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF CROATIA,  
H.E. MARIJA PEJCINOVIC BURIC

14 June 2018

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Thank you, Mr. Chair!

Afghanistan warmly welcomes Her Excellency Marija Pejčinović Burić to the Permanent Council and thanks the Minister for her insightful address; we also express our congratulation upon chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Croatia and Afghanistan in 1996, our co-operation has continuously expanded, culminating in the signing of an agreement on comprehensive long-term partnership between our two countries, which entered into force in September last year. The agreement, signed by Presidents Her Excellency Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic and His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, provides for the establishment of joint committees led by the two Foreign Ministries. Areas of co-operation and support

include education and economic empowerment - in particular for girls and women - health, infrastructure and security.

Croatia has been a reliable partner in fostering our security, since 2003, with regular deployments to ISAF and RSM. The RSM was welcomed by the UN Security Council with the unanimous adoption on 12 December 2014 of Resolution 2189, which underscores the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan. Over the years, the Croatian contribution has evolved with regards to quantity, structure and tasks, with a focus on force protection and training of Afghan National Army and Air Force staff. Currently, 106 Croatian troops are serving in Afghanistan and we greatly appreciate their excellent contributions to training, advice and assistance for our security forces and institutions.

In closing, let me wish you personally, Madam Minister, and the people of Croatia every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!