



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Ljubljana 2005**

Slovenian Chairmanship

**STATEMENT BY DR. DIMITRIJ RUPEL, CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE
OF THE OSCE, AT THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, have met in Ljubljana in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris to reaffirm the continued relevance of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization in dealing with contemporary threats to security and stability.
2. The Ministers have in the course of the last 30 years established and developed by consensus a comprehensive set of OSCE commitments. While the world is changing, the common principles that unite us remain the same. All the OSCE commitments, as our common achievement, apply equally and to all the participating States. The Ministers encourage their full implementation and consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all the participating States. The participating States are accountable to their citizens, and responsible to each other for implementation of these OSCE commitments.
3. The OSCE must continue to adapt in order to meet evolving security challenges and to strengthen the Organization's functioning. The Ministers welcome the report and take into account the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons. The Ministers acknowledge the positive contribution of the High-Level Consultations in that regard. The Ministers are resolved to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization and have therefore agreed on a roadmap to that end. The Ministers also welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on Scales of Contributions for 2005-2007, which is an essential component for ensuring the Organization's financial stability.
4. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security across the three dimensions is as relevant as ever. The Ministers are determined to fully utilize the potential of the OSCE in its politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, while ensuring greater cross-dimensional co-operation.
5. The Ministers call for a systematic and consistent implementation throughout the Organization of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, including of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
6. The Ministers reaffirm the important role, expertise and experience of the OSCE institutions — the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High

Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media — in assisting all the participating States to implement their OSCE commitments.

7. The Ministers recognize the positive role and contribution of OSCE field operations as an innovative and operational instrument of the OSCE's work in putting into practice the goals and principles of our Organization, in full co-operation with host States and in accordance with their mandates. The effectiveness of field operations should be strengthened.

8. The Ministers stand united and are determined to take further decisive measures to prevent and combat terrorism, one of the greatest threats to our security. In reiterating our commitment, the Ministers also wish to emphasize their determination to conduct this fight with respect for rule of law and in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. The Ministers reaffirm their profound solidarity with victims and their families, as well as their need for access to the mechanisms of justice, and to prompt redress as provided by national legislation, for the harm they have suffered.

9. Most Ministers are concerned by the persistence of unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area. Such conflicts generate instability and hinder regional co-operation and development. They support OSCE conflict resolution efforts. Furthermore, they encourage all States having influence over the parties to use their good offices to seek peaceful and just solutions based on international norms and principles.

10. Most Ministers welcome the determination of CFE States Parties to fulfil the commitments undertaken at the 1999 Istanbul Summit and the progress made in 2005 in respect of Georgia. They note also the lack of movement in 2005 on withdrawal of Russian forces from Moldova. They reaffirm their shared determination to promote the fulfillment of that commitment as soon as possible, and to entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty.

11. The OSCE's work in arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures continues to play an important role in fostering security, peace and co-operation in the OSCE area. The Ministers emphasize that full compliance and implementation of the politico-military commitments by all the participating States are important for the common benefit of reliable security and stability in an OSCE area without dividing lines. The Ministers welcome the FSC decisions on holding a high-level seminar on military doctrine in February 2006 and UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and the Chairperson's statement on prior notification of major military activities. The Ministers take note of the discussions on non-proliferation. The Ministers encourage further work on implementing the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, including on assisting in addressing the risks arising from excessive stockpiles.

12. The CFE Treaty continues to make a significant contribution to security and stability in Europe. Most Ministers stress the importance of the Third CFE Review Conference, to take place in 2006, and underline their commitment to use that Conference to further strengthen the Treaty regime.

13. Most Ministers welcome the completion of the first phase of implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies and the positive assessment given to it by the 2005 First Treaty Review Conference. The Ministers stress the importance of the process of accession remaining open in the spirit of 1992 Helsinki Ministerial Declaration.

14. The Ministers believe that the OSCE's institution- and capacity-building expertise is important in assisting States to effectively uphold the rule of law, including in combating transnational organized crime and trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms. The Ministers recall that the fight against organized crime requires a coherent and comprehensive OSCE approach. The Ministers remain concerned about trafficking in the OSCE area, and in particular call for a strengthening of protection and assistance efforts in combating trafficking in human beings, including addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking, as well as for measures to discourage demand.

15. The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to promote open and secure borders in a free, democratic, secure, prosperous and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines. The Ministers therefore welcome the adoption of the Border Security and Management Concept and look forward to its implementation.

16. The Ministers are determined to better utilize the potential of the OSCE in the economic and environmental dimension of security. The OSCE's response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security should focus on further development of economic co-operation, strengthening good governance, ensuring sustainable development and protecting the environment. In this context, The Ministers welcome the choice of transportation as the main theme of the Fourteenth Economic Forum.

17. The Ministers reaffirm that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is the essential element of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The Ministers recognize the importance of fully implementing OSCE commitments on democratic elections. The Ministers are determined to continue promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding and to implement their commitments in this field. In this regard, The Ministers appreciate the "Cordoba Declaration" by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, issued at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance.

18. The Ministers are aware of the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to participating States. The Ministers are determined to fight illegal migration and to address its root causes. The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to protect the human rights of migrants and to continue to promote their integration in the societies in which they are lawfully residing. The Ministers encourage the use of the OSCE as one of the fora for facilitating a dialogue and co-operation among participating States and with Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in the search for mutually beneficial solutions to migration related issues, through a cross-dimensional and concerted approach.

19. The Ministers underline the important role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appreciate the close interaction with it that has developed in recent years.

20. The Ministers reaffirm the essential role that civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play and have played in promoting OSCE principles, norms and

commitments during the 30 years of the Helsinki process. The Ministers also recognize that the relationship with NGOs should be further promoted with a view to strengthen democracy and prosperity.

21. The Ministers value the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement of the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and believe that this relationship should be further strengthened, in line with UN Security Council resolution 1631 (2005). The Ministers welcome the Declaration of Co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe and encourage practical follow-up, while respecting the different memberships of each organization. The Ministers appreciate the co-operation between the OSCE and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Prosecutor's Office regarding the monitoring of war crimes trials in the countries concerned. Recalling the Platform for Co-operative Security, The Ministers encourage further strengthening and development of relations with other relevant international organizations.

22. The Ministers are convinced that security in the OSCE area should be considered in the broader context of global security. The Ministers therefore value their intensified relations with the Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and look forward to further strengthening them.