



**Statement by Head of Delegation of the Republic of Slovenia  
at the 18th OSCE Ministerial Council  
of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,  
Vilnius, 6 and 7 December 2011**

Mr Chairman, Excellences,

I would also like to express gratitude the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the warm hospitality here in cold Vilnius and for the hard work throughout the year. A number of important topics have been raised in today's discussion so far; and we still hope that some, if not most of them will result in decisions of this Ministerial Council.

Slovenia continues to attach great importance to the OSCE. Its comprehensive concept of security is unique and this fact has to continue to be recognized by concrete outcomes. We fully subscribe to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and we sincerely hope that the results of this meeting will help the OSCE to move our agenda forward and take up new commitments in the areas where they are needed. Let me touch on few additional points:

In our common desire to secure peace, security, prosperity, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, we have to continue to learn from each other and respect each other. In this spirit, we all have to strive to implement the OSCE commitments which we have decided in the past. All three dimensions and a number of cross-dimensional issues demand our constant activity and attention.

We should show our ability to adapt to new circumstances, to become an organization able to react and respond in time, by preventing old and new threats to the security of the OSCE area and its neighbourhood. In this regard we strongly support the efforts of the Secretary-General. The synergy between the participating States, Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and the executive structures, including the OSCE Field Missions is crucial in order to strengthen OSCE capacities in early warning, early action, mediation and post conflict rehabilitation. Responding to lack of progress we should also re-examine the existing conflict resolution formats.

Speaking about conflict and security of the OSCE area, Slovenia believes that we should improve our effectiveness in tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges that affect us all, including those from neighbouring regions. The package of proposed decisions should show that OSCE remains a relevant organization, able to deliver and live up to its commitments.

After the commitments heard at International conference in Bonn, the adoption of the Decision on strengthening cooperation with Afghanistan would contribute to the broad effort of the international community and provide a good basis for strengthening the OSCE engagement there.

Major political and social developments in the Southern Mediterranean have engaged us to explore how OSCE can be of assistance and potential benefit to Partners, taking into account

their needs, interests and proposals. We hope that OSCE and its partners will be able to use the opportunity. In this regard we also support closer contacts with the League of Arab States.

Slovenia strongly supports regional cooperation throughout the OSCE area. The Slovenian International Trust Fund for demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) is contributing to the enhancement of the cooperative security environment in Central Asia through implementation of the OSCE project »Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Cooperation in Mine Action« in the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

In the Political-Military Dimension we support further substantive and concrete updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, especially in those areas that will bring new impetus and higher transparency. It is high time to be more concrete. The OSCE has a good record in areas such as Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition that provides a good basis to develop synergy with the UN.

Let me also recall that Slovenia - as a non-State Party to the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) - stands ready to resume negotiations on strengthening and modernising conventional arms control in Europe.

In the Economic and Environmental Dimension we congratulate the Coordinator for having organized the first Economic Environmental Implementation Meeting. We support the idea that such a meeting is held annually. Good governance, transparency, fight against corruption, properly managed migration issues, equal opportunities in the economic sphere, and energy security are essentials of economic and social security.

Human Dimension remains the cornerstone of comprehensive security. Also in this dimension we need to adapt to the new situations and move our agenda forward. Therefore Slovenia is a co-sponsor of the Declaration on Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age. Slovenia underlines the importance of strong OSCE institutions, strongly supports the work of Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Representative on the Freedom of Media. We stress the need and importance of the follow-up of their recommendations contained in their substantive reports.

This year ODIHR had also sent an election mission for parliamentary elections to Slovenia on 4 December 2011, the same day as to Croatia and the Russian Federation. In Slovenia, we look forward to receiving the report and possible recommendations on the overall framework for the conduct of the elections. We will study possible ODIHR recommendations with great interest and implement them. This is what ODIHR is there for; this is what the OSCE institutions are there for, to assist us, the participating States, in implementing our, OSCE commitments.

It is on us to prove that the OSCE is not only an important forum where we discuss comprehensive security in the Euro-Atlantic, European and Euro-Asian region, but that the OSCE is a credible organisation capable to ensure peace and stability by constantly improving the norms and mutual understanding throughout this vast and fascinating region. Here I would like to welcome the Mongolian bid to join OSCE as a participating State.

In conclusion, let me express our best wishes to the incoming Chair Ireland that will take the helm of the OSCE next year. We trust that the incoming chairmanship, and indeed a new Troika, will continue to build on a good work done by the previous Chairmanships. Slovenia we will be there to support it in furthering the goals of this Organization.

Thank you!