

## **2003 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar**

**“The Comprehensive approach to security:  
The OSCE experience and its relevance for the Mediterranean  
region”  
*Aqaba, Jordan, 20-21 October 2003***

### **S T A T E M E N T**

**by Mr. Solomon Passy, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be present here today and to address this important international gathering. May I commend the Government of the Kingdom of Jordan for taking the initiative to host the 2003 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar and selecting Aqaba for its venue. This beautiful city on the Red Sea shore only a few months ago welcomed a historic Summit Conference which brought hope to the Middle East. I highly appreciate that after four years the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar is held again in one of the Mediterranean Partner Countries, Jordan.

With a view to the current developments in the Middle East, the theme we are going to discuss now – the OSCE comprehensive approach to the security and its relevance for the Mediterranean area, acquires special significance. Holding this Seminar in the midst of the region with the participation of senior officials and leading academics from both shores of the Mediterranean conveys a timely political message. By sharing with its Mediterranean Partners its experience in overcoming the confrontations of the past the OSCE may also contribute to creating a more favourable atmosphere in the Middle East so much needed now for the immediate halt of the cycle of violence and the implementation of the Road Map.

The important characteristics of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have always been its inclusive membership and the comprehensive concept of security. The tasks that the OSCE had to solve during the years were derived from the real situation on the ground in each and every concrete historic moment. They were of one type in the 70-ies, when the basis of the CSCE was laid down, and another – in the 80-ies, when we moved from the “Cold War” towards transition in Central and Eastern Europe. They were quite different in the 90-ies – with the inclusion in the Organization of many newly

independent states that needed to manage successfully transformation and change. And there is a new set of tasks for the 21st Century after the events of the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001.

During all these years the OSCE paid attention also to its Mediterranean Dimension, sometimes more and sometimes – less. Today, however, there are objective reasons for the OSCE to concentrate more on this dimension. The new threats and challenges are not limited only to the OSCE area, but have their projection on the Mediterranean Partners too. The necessity to address the new type of threats originating from terrorism, organized crime, the existence of civic conflicts, xenophobia, racism, discrimination, illicit trafficking of human beings, of arms and drugs, unite the OSCE participating States and their southern partners from the Mediterranean. It is quite logical to look for common means to address these threats.

Today in Aqaba, OSCE will present its multidimensional approach to security issues and the latter's relevance for the Mediterranean region. Security, according to the OSCE's comprehensive concept, is not only limited to the politico-military sphere, but includes also the rule of law, respect for human rights, democracy building, development of civil society, as well as the economic and ecological aspects of security. In the OSCE understanding the strength of a state is not exclusively build on its military capability. "Balance of power" has become an obsolete concept in the OSCE region. In order to enhance its security, a state needs good governance and involvement of all strata of the society in the creation of better life, based on democratic principles. It needs also regional co-operation.

We are well aware that there can hardly be any automatic projection of the experience of one regional organization to another region. We need to take into consideration the different historical developments, as well as the present political and security situation on the ground. However, the differences should not detract us from looking for ways to overcome the present situation. In the Mediterranean region "balance of power" as a concept is also becoming more and more obsolete. The necessity for cooperative approaches exists here too. The values we in the OSCE adhere to are becoming more and more attractive to the nations of the Mediterranean Partners.

The question is what framework is more promising for achievement of the common goals. My conviction is that in the longer run, there might be a regional security co-operation organization in the Middle East with a comprehensive approach to security. However, for the time being it is more realistic to bring the Mediterranean Partners closer to the OSCE to involve them as much as possible in the work of the Organization and bring them closer to its acquis. The OSCE should open to other Mediterranean countries to become Partners for co-operation, if they express such a wish and if they accept the goals of our Organization. Working with the OSCE and its institutions will make it possible for those Mediterranean Partners who are willing, to accept already at this stage some of the OSCE acquis in the area of elections, institution building, politico-military CSBMs or media. Outreach activities of the OSCE will provide Partners with valuable experience that they can utilize in coming closer to OSCE values. We believe, that outreach – transmission of OSCE experience in specific realms upon request of Partner States – constitutes an important new element of our co-operation. There are several documents of OSCE which the Mediterranean Partners might be willing to make their own and start implementing them.

To accomplish this, goodwill and readiness on behalf of the Mediterranean Partners is needed, but the OSCE has also to do its homework. We, as OSCE, have to talk more with the Mediterranean Partners. If we want a qualitatively new relationship, we should also develop a

qualitatively new framework for this relationship. This year we saw increased involvement of the Mediterranean Partners in the OSCE activities – they were invited to participate and contribute to important OSCE fora. They were often guests in the Permanent Council on an ad hoc basis. Mediterranean Partners were invited to provide input in the elaboration of the OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These developments have to be condoned but we need more. Bulgaria hopes, that the Maastricht Ministerial, as it is already under discussion in Vienna, will open the doors of the Permanent Council for the Partners to be present at all its meetings.

The OSCE is a team player. In many activities the Organization is cooperating closely with the UN, the Council of Europe, NATO, EU. The basis for this interaction was laid down in the Platform for Cooperative Security from Istanbul. We are glad that partner organizations have developed their own Mediterranean frameworks – the EU Barcelona Process and NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, as well as the Mediterranean Dimension of the activities of the Parliamentary Assemblies of OSCE and NATO and of the European Parliament.

This gives us the opportunity to develop synergies when dealing with requests from the Mediterranean Partners for closer interaction in areas of mutual interest.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to assure you that during its 2004 OSCE Chairmanship Bulgaria will work for further enrichment of the co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners.

The significant theme of our seminar, the high level participation and the excellent conference facilities, offered by the Jordanian Government, provide for an extensive and in-depth considerations of the included items. I wish to all of you fruitful discussions and success.

Thank you for your attention!