

Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GIANFRANCO VARVESI
AT THE OPENING OF THE ITALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

Vienna, 11 May 2011

Mr. Deputy Secretary of State,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to welcome you to the first meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) chaired by Italy in the second trimester of 2011. Italy succeeds Iceland in that prestigious post. Allow me, therefore, to congratulate Ambassador Stefán Skjaldarson – my counterpart, but above all, my friend – for his exemplary conduct of the FSC Chairmanship in the first trimester. We shall seek to follow in the Icelandic Chairmanship's footsteps and to bring to fruition the work carried out in the first period of the year, in the hope of being able to reap the benefits at the end of this year, following the Kazakh Chairmanship.

The work in this Forum is a team effort, and we cannot think of pursuing our chairmanship without the support of the outgoing chairmanship, as well as that of the incoming one, that of Kazakhstan. Nor can we do without the valuable assistance of the OSCE Secretariat – first, the FSC Support Section of the Conflict Prevention Centre, and, second, Conference and Language Services. It is my hope, however, to also work in close collaboration and co-ordination with the delegations of all other OSCE participating States. I expect to receive from them indications of their aspirations and visions for the future of our Organization's military dimension.

Like the Icelandic Chairmanship, we cannot fail to refer, at the outset of our work, to the Astana Summit and, in particular, to the political orientations given in that context by our Heads of State or Government. We view these guidelines not only as instructions, but also as encouragement to continue on our joint path.

Obviously, this applies, first and foremost, to the mutual confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), which cannot fail to encompass all of the existing conventional arms control instruments. These instruments, which emerged in another historical era, must now be updated in order to adapt them to changes in the geopolitical situation in our area.

*) Correction due to the change of distribution status

In mentioning these instruments, I am clearly referring to the Vienna Document, the substance of which dates back to 1994, although it was registered in 1999. For this document, it will be necessary to verify whether the prerequisites for updating it have been met. I am also referring to our commitment with regard to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Code of Conduct), to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and to the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) and that which is in surplus and/or awaiting destruction.

I am pleased, by the way, to tell you at the outset that we wanted to dedicate ample space during our chairmanship to encouraging an exchange based on these very topics as part of the weekly sessions of the Security Dialogue. As you may have seen in the first draft of our chairmanship programme, which has already been circulated, we have provided an explanation of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM). On 1 June, there will be an entire session devoted to the application of the Code of Conduct in the OSCE area; on 22 June, there will be another session devoted to an explanation of the project in Tajikistan on promoting intraregional co-operation to counter the use and sale of anti-personnel mines. These events are also intended to provide tangible and visible examples of some of the OSCE's most significant "success stories", which should encourage us to pursue our efforts to achieve an ever more secure and stable pan-European region.

We are not, of course, concealing the fact that there are many issues still open, and that we have a long way to go to reach increasingly advanced levels of collective security. However, we should like to reaffirm here that, in our view, open and constructive dialogue and consensus are still the basis and the premise for achieving this goal. For this reason, the programme we have proposed includes a dialogue on the pan-European security system, to be held on 15 June. To this end, we have relied on two famous Italian generals who will give us the benefit of their experience. Also included is a dialogue on security in the Mediterranean area, a topic that has, unfortunately, become very timely, but one that we can look at with confidence, certain that we can make a contribution to a democratization process of far-reaching importance.

Obviously, in an interconnected world, we cannot escape the importance of close collaboration with other regional and international organizations – first and foremost, the United Nations, but also NATO, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and others.

I should like to recall the statement that Italy, as Chairperson pro tempore of the FSC, made yesterday on behalf of the OSCE at the meeting of governmental experts on SALW currently being held in New York. The statement highlighted the OSCE's contribution to international co-operation in this important sector with a view to enhancing the modalities for combating the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Dimensions such as traceability, special attention to the specific needs of participating States and cost sustainability were presented as an outstanding contribution by the OSCE to the international efforts undertaken at various levels in this regard.

A session of the Dialogue, possibly at a special joint FSC-Permanent Council meeting, on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, is also being considered, and we shall seek to organize it, with the help of the Secretariat, as a follow-up to the successful workshop held under the Icelandic Chairmanship in January of this year on the OSCE's role in facilitating the implementation of that resolution.

As for NATO, we have invited the Deputy Secretary General of that organization to attend one of our sessions. This will give us an opportunity to exchange views on NATO's new military doctrine and other matters related to new challenges. We also wanted to offer similar opportunities to our partners in Eastern Europe, and we are confident that they will not fail to respond positively to our appeal, and will accept our sincere invitation.

Today's world continually presents new challenges in the military and security field in its holistic sense. These factors confirm the need to keep alive our commitment to confront these challenges through the power of the OSCE's traditional instruments: dialogue, tolerance and, above all, the political will to prevent and solve problems. The response that we are able to give will, on the other hand, be the test of the OSCE's viability. Our Organization has already demonstrated, and is continuing to demonstrate, that it understands what is at stake. Today, as our Chairmanship begins, the conference on cyber security is ending. At the end of June, the Annual Security Review Conference will be another opportunity to take stock of the current threats, relevant countermeasures, and future challenges that must be addressed in the OSCE area.

Lastly, we expect that the OSCE High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine will also provide new food for thought about ways to substantially revive our collaboration for the benefit of the peoples of our continent, in the Euro-Atlantic, the Eurasian and the Euro-Mediterranean areas.

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Dear colleagues,

The Vienna Document 1999, the document on OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, the Code of Conduct, the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Document on SCA continue to serve as the regulatory basis of our joint work. The Italian Chairmanship of the FSC, in agreement with the members of the OSCE Troika and the Conflict Prevention Centre, has decided to continue to avail itself of the excellent work carried out up to now by the co-ordinators on these topics, and to base the outline of its own projects on what they have already accomplished.

Accordingly, the Chairmanship intends to confirm the mandates of the following co-ordinators:

- Mr. Pierre von Arx, of the delegation of Switzerland, as Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document;
- Col. Anton Eischer, of the delegation of Austria, as Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct;
- Col. Steve Hartnell, of the delegation of the United Kingdom, as Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW;
- Lt. Col. Laszlò Szatmári, of the delegation of Hungary, as Co-ordinator for Projects on SCA;

- Col. Anders Byrén, of the delegation of Sweden, as Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW;
- Dr. Berenice Gare, of the delegation of the United Kingdom, as *chef de file* for the Annual Security Review Conference;
- Lastly, I confirm the appointment of First Counsellor Loretta Loria as Co-ordinator for the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine.

I should like to warmly congratulate here all the co-ordinators for the work they have accomplished up to now, to encourage them to pursue their efforts, and to assure them of the Chairmanship's full support for the performance of their duties now and in the future.