



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Mission to Montenegro

Delta City, Podgorica, 18 June, 2010

World Refugee Day – June 20

**Address of the Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu,
Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro**

Dear colleagues, guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be here today, on the occasion of the 20th June World Refugee Day. On this World Refugee Day, let us remember that refugees are real people with real needs, and to reiterate our commitment in helping them to rebuild their lives. Every refugee family has a history of its own; the same goes for the decision to return which must remain individual.

The OSCE and its field presences in South Eastern Europe has had an important role in contributing to resolving the displacement issues that occurred as a result of conflict in the former Yugoslavia. We have always seen this issue as a key aspect for regional reconciliation and also to allow each of the countries of the region to get closer to the EU, in the right way, in a healthy way. The solution of the refugee problem in South Eastern Europe is a matter of full respect of human and minorities' rights which in turn, represent preconditions for the full integration of these countries into the EU. In order to address these issues, the OSCE prioritized a regional approach through co-operation of its field presences in the region, UNHCR and EU offices. In this way, we provided support to governments in the region in their efforts to resolve the problem of refugees region-wide.

The Sarajevo Process of regional co-operation in the field of refugee return has provided the framework for the identification and resolution of several outstanding issues, but it has been halted on an issue with unclear legal contours. Thus, any regional effort to resolve the refugee problem should originate from the clear will of the concerned states. In this context, rather than being the problem solver, the international community, including the OSCE, should be seen as the catalyst of efforts, as well as a provider of technical and financial assistance, and ensuring that the dialogue is sustained and flows in the right direction, in order to find possible durable solutions for the most needy within the remaining refugee population.

Therefore the OSCE Mission to Montenegro committed itself to continuous support and assistance in creating an environment in which the best and mutual solutions of the persons of concern as well as the countries are identified. To close the displacement chapter Montenegro has made and continues to make steps forward. This momentum cannot be lost, however, and a redoubling of efforts needs to take place with respect to the implementation of its National Action Plan.

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The OSCE field presences in the SEE region remain fully engaged in resolving the displacement issues, in making sure that the adopted Action Plans and Strategies are fully implemented, in identifying the needs and problems of the displaced population from a legal and practical perspective, in facilitating return as well as integration.

There is a pressing need to make sure that the commitments adopted in the so called action plans are transformed into concrete durable solutions with the engagement of the whole public administration and local officials so that a better life can be created for those dreaming of it. As the OSCE, and its Mission in Montenegro is concerned, we stands ready to provide further support in this direction, in cooperation with our partners – EU and UNHCR.

Thank You.