

OSCE Chairmanship Conference
“Integrating Global Energy Markets – Providing Energy Security”

Opening Statement
Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
3-4 November 2011

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers,
H.E. Vice Minister,
Mr. Coordinator for Economic & Environmental Activities,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Government of Turkmenistan in opening this International Conference “Integrating Global Energy Markets – Providing Energy Security.” I would also like to join Vice Minister Ingatavicius in thanking the Government of Turkmenistan, and in particular H.E. President Berdymukhamedov, for hosting this Conference, and for hosting me personally on the occasion of my first visit to Ashgabat in my capacity as OSCE Secretary General.

The access to reliable energy resources, against the background of a rapidly increasing global population and dramatic economic growth in the developing world, is one of the main challenges of our time. This issue has an obvious security dimension. Competition over energy resources is a potential source of instability, which can lead to both domestic and international tensions. Interdependence between energy suppliers, consumers and transit countries poses a number of complex

challenges, but also provides us with opportunities for positive engagement. As countries seek reliable access to energy, or reliable markets for their energy resources, the need to enhance co-operation and build solid, sustainable partnerships becomes more pressing.

The OSCE offers several advantages as a platform for advancing dialogue and co-operation on energy issues. These include a comprehensive, multidimensional approach to security, and a broad and diverse membership, which includes major energy suppliers, consumers and transit countries. The OSCE also offers a flexible framework, which can bring together government officials, representatives of international organizations, civil society actors and the private sector, and contributes to the foundation of a solid legal framework in this context.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy security and related topics – security of supply, security of demand, economic growth, and national security issues – have received increasing attention as energy prices have risen over the past decade.

Last year's Astana Summit was a milestone in this regard. At the Summit, OSCE Head of State and Government noted that "mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on our region's security of economic and environmental challenges must be further developed." They also agreed that our energy security dialogue, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, must be enhanced.

Earlier this year, as a contribution to this dialogue, my predecessor Marc Perrin de Brichambaut presented a Report in October 2010,

Concerning the Complementary Role of the OSCE in the Field of Energy Security, which identified five thematic areas where the OSCE could engage in energy security. These included:

- (1) promoting good governance and transparency;
- (2) addressing threats to critical energy infrastructure;
- (3) promoting confidence-building and the development of early warning mechanisms;
- (4) promoting sustainable energy solutions; and
- (5) promoting awareness of the linkages between energy security and climate change.

Work in these five thematic areas is well under way, in the Secretariat and in the OSCE's field operations

The OSCE is contributing to capacity building through training events and workshops aimed at increasing local knowledge on energy issues. A Workshop on the Creation of a Legal Framework for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources was held in Baku this past July; a series of seminars on the Standardization of Investment Procedures for Small Hydro Power in Dushanbe, which started in November 2010, and will continue into 2012. And right here in Ashgabat, a workshop on Energy Diplomacy was conducted in March of this year, with a follow-up workshop in August; we hope that these will be the first of several events covering various aspects of energy security. The OSCE Secretariat stands ready to organize additional regional workshops to promote best practices on energy efficiency, conservation and the development of and investment in renewable sources of energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the OSCE, addressing energy security means promoting co-operation, including at the regional and sub-regional level, managing the interdependence between participating States and non-state actors, and adopting a comprehensive and balanced approach that takes into account political, security, legal, economic and environmental considerations.

I hope that the discussions that will take place over the coming days will strengthen our common energy security dialogue, and provide momentum as we prepare for next month's Vilnius Ministerial Council.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you every success in your discussions.