



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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2009

Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

1 and 2 December 2009

Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

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**I. STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS BY THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE OSCE CORFU PROCESS:

Reconfirm-Review-Reinvigorate Security and Co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok

(MC.DOC/1/09 of 2 December 2009)

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the 56 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, meet, for the second time this year after our informal meeting in Corfu, to mark the significant progress that we have achieved together since the reunification of Europe and the elimination of Europe's old divisions. We reconfirm that the vision of a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security remains a common goal, which we are determined to reach.
2. To achieve this goal, much work remains to be accomplished. We continue to be seriously concerned that the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments are not fully respected and implemented; that the use of force has not ceased to be considered as an option in settling disputes; that the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated, and armed conflicts have occurred even in the last decades; that tensions still exist and many conflicts remain unresolved; that stalemates in conventional arms control, resolution of disagreements in this field, resumption of full implementation of the CFE Treaty regime, and restoration of its viability require urgent concerted action by its States Parties; and that our common achievements in the fields of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms need to be fully safeguarded and further advanced. This is occurring at a time when new emerging transnational threats require, more than ever, common responses.
3. We recognize that these security challenges, further accentuated by the ongoing international financial and economic crisis, should be tackled with a renewed commitment to achieve results through multilateral dialogue and co-operation. At this stage, our highest priority remains to re-establish our trust and confidence, as well as to recapture the sense of common purpose that brought together our predecessors in Helsinki almost 35 years ago. In this context, we welcome the dialogue on the current and future challenges for security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, initiated at the 2008 Helsinki Ministerial Council and launched by the Greek Chairmanship in June 2009 as the "Corfu Process", aimed at achieving the aforementioned goals. We consider the first ever OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu, with broad participation, as a milestone in this process, where we expressed our political will to confront security challenges, in all three OSCE dimensions.
4. The Corfu Process has already improved the quality and contributed to the revitalization of our political dialogue in the OSCE on security and co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We are committed to continue and further develop this process, setting ambitious, concrete and pragmatic goals, while also focusing on the key issues identified in our work so far. The OSCE, due to its broad membership and its multidimensional approach to common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, provides the appropriate forum for this dialogue. We welcome the valuable contributions of all relevant organizations and institutions dealing with security, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

5. The dialogue within the Corfu Process will be grounded in the OSCE and in the principles of equality, partnership, co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency. It will aim at addressing disagreements openly, honestly and in an unbiased manner, acknowledging our diversities and concerns, in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. It will build on three basic guidelines:

- (a) Adherence to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, as enshrined in the OSCE fundamental documents;
- (b) Compliance with OSCE norms, principles and commitments in all three OSCE dimensions, in full and in good faith, and in a consistent manner by all;
- (c) Determination to strengthen partnership and co-operation in the OSCE area, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE and its contribution to security in our common space.

6. The Corfu Process will be taken forward by our Permanent Representatives to the OSCE in Vienna, in accordance with the decision we are adopting today. We remain committed to provide strong political impetus to the Corfu Process, and we are looking forward to reassessing its progress in 2010, in the format and level that we will deem appropriate, taking into consideration the results we achieve.

7. We welcome Kazakhstan in the 2010 OSCE Chairmanship, the first ever to be exercised by a Central Asian OSCE participating State. We note with interest its proposal to hold an OSCE summit in 2010. We point out that such a high-level meeting would require adequate preparation in terms of substance and modalities. We task the Permanent Council to engage in exploratory consultations to determine the extent of progress on the OSCE agenda to inform our decision.

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
ON THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF
THE WORLD WAR II**

(MC.DOC/2/09 of 2 December 2009)

The year 2010 marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the battles of the World War II, which caused unprecedented suffering and destruction. That war proved to be one of the greatest tragedies to afflict the peoples of Europe and the world. It lasted for six and a half years and took tens of millions of lives. The war brought about violations of human rights and freedoms as well as crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We mourn all people who lost their lives, as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations and acts of repression. We honour veterans and all those who fought for the victory of humanity against fascism, dictatorship, oppression and aggression. Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice and we will never forget their heroic exploits.

Resolved to prevent the recurrence of such a European and international catastrophe, our countries made a clear and unequivocal commitment to peace, security and democracy, in particular by founding the United Nations and through the establishment of regional organizations. Today we are proud of our common achievements and we hail the progress that has been made in the past sixty-five years in overcoming the tragic legacy of World War II, towards achieving global peace and security, reconciliation, international and regional co-operation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We stress the important role that the CSCE and OSCE have played in this regard in the past decades.

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security, and other agreed OSCE documents we should not tolerate dividing lines and we shall spare no effort to avoid the emergence of new ones in the OSCE area, and to eliminate sources of hostility, tensions and confrontation. We reiterate our position that within the OSCE no State or group of States can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence. We are determined to continue our collective efforts with a view of creating a common and indivisible space of security in the OSCE area, based on democracy, the rule of law, economic prosperity, social justice, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. This remains our common purpose.

An honest and thorough research on the history of World War II contributes to reconciliation.

We have learned from history the danger of intolerance, discrimination, extremism and hatred on ethnic, racial and religious grounds. We are committed to combat these threats, including through the OSCE, and we reject any attempts to justify them.

We strongly condemn any denial of the Holocaust. We condemn all forms of ethnic cleansing. We confirm our adherence to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted on 9 December 1948 and call on the participating States to take every possible action to ensure that attempts to commit genocide

are prevented today and in the future. The perpetrators of such crimes should be brought to justice.

The lessons of the World War II are still of relevance today, when we need to unite our efforts and resources to address threats and challenges to our common security and stability and to defend our common principles. New times have brought new threats and challenges, one of the most dangerous of which is terrorism. We will fight this and other threats to security together, *inter alia*, through the OSCE.

We are convinced that the peaceful resolution of all existing conflicts, the observance of the norms of international law, the aims and principles of the UN Charter, the fulfilment of commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other agreed OSCE documents are the best way to pay tribute to those who struggled for peace, freedom, democracy and human dignity, to commemorate all victims of World War II, to overcome the past, and to save present and future generations from the scourge of war and violence.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

(MC.DOC/3/09 of 2 December 2009)

We welcome the joint statement of 1 December of Foreign Minister Lavrov, Foreign Minister Kouchner, and Deputy Secretary Steinberg of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Mammadyarov and Armenian Foreign Minister Nalbandian. We urge the parties to sustain the positive dynamic of the negotiations and strongly support their commitment to finalize the Basic Principles on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the Madrid Document in order to begin drafting a comprehensive peace agreement in good faith and without delay. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work intensively to resolve the remaining issues, to reach an agreement based, in particular, upon the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of Non-Use of Force or Threat of Force, Territorial Integrity, and the Equal Rights and Self-Determination of Peoples. We are convinced there is today a real opportunity to build a future of peace, stability, and prosperity for the entire region.

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE
25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION
AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

(MC.DOC/4/09 of 2 December 2009)

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, reaffirm our strong commitment to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984, to which all OSCE participating States have become parties.
2. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of this Convention we reaffirm that, as also set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
3. We recognize that torture is a most serious crime and affirm that freedom from torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right, which protects the inherent dignity and integrity of the human person.
4. We strongly condemn all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can never be justified.
5. We are seriously concerned that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment still take place in many parts of the world, including in OSCE participating States.
6. We therefore pledge to uphold the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as set forth in the Convention, to implement fully and in good faith its provisions, and to act in full conformity with all its principles.
7. We call upon the participating States, which have not yet done so, to give early consideration to becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.
8. We also reaffirm our determination to implement fully our common OSCE commitments to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
9. We shall intensify our efforts to take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure full rehabilitation of torture victims.
10. We recognize the valuable contribution of the OSCE in promoting the principles and provisions laid down in the Convention.
11. We consider it important to co-operate fully to this end with the applicable international intergovernmental bodies.

12. We commend the persistent efforts of civil society working to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to alleviate the suffering of victims.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON NON-PROLIFERATION

(MC.DOC/5/09 of 2 December 2009)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, recalling OSCE commitments on non-proliferation, emphasize that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The international non-proliferation regime faces major challenges. We are committed to continue to address them resolutely.

We welcome and reaffirm our commitment to the UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1887 (2009) to take further steps with the view to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We recognize the role of the UN Security Council in addressing threats to international peace and security arising from non-compliance with non-proliferation obligations. We remain seriously concerned that some States do not comply fully with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and call upon them to do so without delay.

We are also gravely concerned by the threat of illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials, which adds a new dimension to the issue of proliferation of such weapons and also poses a threat to international peace and security.

We endorse universal adherence to the international treaties and conventions aiming at preventing and prohibiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we call upon all States still not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to become parties thereto.

We are strongly committed to effective and full implementation of the NPT. We reaffirm that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We will work to achieve a successful NPT Review Conference in May 2010 and to strengthen the Treaty and its three mutually reinforcing pillars.

We reaffirm the commitment of our countries to seeking a safer world for all and to creating conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT. In this context, we welcome the historical decisions taken by States in the OSCE area to renounce voluntarily nuclear arsenals as well as the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones. We also acknowledge that reaching a new legally binding agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on further strategic arms reductions and limitations to replace the START Treaty expiring in December 2009 will be a vital contribution to this endeavor. We recognize that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing.

We acknowledge security assurances provided by the nuclear-weapon States as noted in the UNSCR 984 (1995) and recognize that these security assurances strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We support the universalization and strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system and verification regime, in particular through the adoption and implementation by States, which have yet to do so, of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol which should become a universally accepted verification standard for non-proliferation compliance. In this regard, we reaffirm that effective export controls, together with the IAEA safeguards, are essential to prevent nuclear proliferation.

We encourage the work of the IAEA on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including assurances of nuclear fuel supply, as an effective means of addressing the expanded need for nuclear fuel services, while taking into account the necessity to minimize the risk of proliferation. In this regard, we appreciate the initiatives recently put forward by some and supported by all OSCE participating States.

We call for universal adherence to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its 2005 Amendment, and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We also call for States to improve their national capabilities to detect, deter, and disrupt illicit trafficking in nuclear materials throughout their territories, and endorse the IAEA efforts, within its nuclear security program, to improve nuclear security, protect against nuclear terrorism, and promote international co-operation with regard.

We reiterate our commitment to promoting full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1540 (2004), as well as our ongoing dialogue with the Committee established pursuant to it. In this context, we pledge our continued support to the ongoing UNSCR 1540 (2004) comprehensive review process, Committee's and regional efforts to facilitate its implementation, including through providing effective assistance to those States that require it.

We will continue our efforts to strengthen the BTWC. We welcome the ongoing progress under the CWC and highlight the vital importance of the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

We agree to further improve national nuclear export control policies by supporting and, where possible, strengthening the guidelines of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. We support the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and undertake to control the export of missiles, technology and equipment in accordance with the guidelines.

We are committed to take all appropriate national measures in accordance with our national authorities and legislation, and consistent with international law, to prevent proliferation financing and shipments, to strengthen export controls, to secure sensitive materials, and to control access to intangible transfers of technology.

We remain fully committed to the early entry into force of the CTBT. Pending its entry into force, we call upon all States to abide by a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and to refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the CTBT.

We welcome the adoption by consensus of a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament and stress the urgent need for the Conference to commence on this basis its

substantive work in early 2010, including negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In the meantime, we call upon all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of such material.

We reiterate our readiness to further enhance and strengthen existing international legal instruments against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the OSCE area through the broadest possible multilateral support. In this context, we will continue to take appropriate actions, consistent with national legal authorities and obligations under relevant international legal framework, to strengthen the implementation of the respective commitments through our legislation, regulations and procedures and to exchange information, *inter alia* and as appropriate, in the context of a security dialogue within the OSCE about practical measures for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/09
FURTHERING THE CORFU PROCESS

(MC.DEC/1/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Commending the initiative of the Greek Chairmanship for launching a wide-ranging and open Vienna-based dialogue on the key issues of wider European security, initiated on the basis of the outcome of our informal Ministerial meeting in Corfu,

Encouraged by the positive spirit of this dialogue and taking into account the many proposals put forward by the delegations in the course of this dialogue,

Recognizing the need to continue the Corfu process and deepen the dialogue in order to promote understanding and enhance confidence; also, to take forward proposals aimed at strengthening the OSCE's capabilities for addressing security threats and at delivering concrete results, in the context of ensuring a comprehensive and balanced approach to security,

To this end, decides:

1. To task the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, in close consultation with the successive FSC Chairmanships, to continue the informal, regular and open dialogue, in the framework of the Corfu Process, through regular informal meetings, at the level of permanent representatives, reinforced by capitals, as appropriate, in order to extend the areas of agreement and contribute to consensus building.

Taking into account the initial assessment of the main threats and challenges to our security and co-operation, identified in the Corfu Process so far, the future dialogue will and focus on issues pertaining to:

- Implementation of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments;
- Role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Role of the arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust, in the evolving security environment;
- Transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges;
- Economic and environmental challenges;
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law;
- Enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness;
- Interaction with other organizations and institutions, on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security.

In the framework of the Corfu Process, participating States may raise any issue they consider pertinent.

2. Based on the results of the informal meetings of the permanent representatives, the OSCE Chairmanship, in close consultation with the FSC Chairmanship, will submit, by the end of June 2010, an interim report summarizing proposals put forward by the participating States within the Corfu Process, to a joint reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, for further consideration and possible decisions.

3. That the PC and the FSC, within their mandates and, as necessary, jointly, will examine the interim report and consider actions, on the proposals therein, as appropriate.

4. Upon request, the OSCE executive structures will provide, within their mandates, assistance and expert input, as appropriate. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may also contribute to the Corfu Process.

The Chairmanship, after close consultation with participating States, will invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, as well as representatives of the academic and NGO communities to contribute to the discussions, on an ad hoc basis.

5. The engagement of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation in the Corfu Process will not detract from their mandates, regular agendas and activities.

DECISION No. 2/09
FURTHER OSCE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL
THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO SECURITY AND STABILITY
(MC.DEC/2/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the evolving security environment in the 21st century, along with the process of globalization, create new threats and challenges to security and stability of transnational and multidimensional nature, which require comprehensive, multidimensional and collective responses,

Reaffirming that strict compliance with the international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations remains the focus of efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability and security and that the UN Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and continues to play a crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the world,

Confident that the OSCE can make a real contribution to the development of co-operative responses to these challenges, drawing upon its broad membership, its thematic expertise and its signature concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Mindful that threats to security and stability in the OSCE region are more likely to arise as destabilizing consequences of developments that cut across the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions,

Bearing in mind that transnational threats to participating States can also stem from areas adjacent to the OSCE region, and as such require responses that are closely co-ordinated with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and relevant international and regional organizations,

Reaffirming the continued relevance of the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century, which provides a multidimensional, comprehensive and co-operative basis for OSCE activities in this regard,

Commending the ongoing work of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation to address transnational threats, within their respective mandates,

Commending the active role played by the OSCE across its region in the field of transnational threats through its Secretariat, institutions and field operations as important instruments in assisting all participating States to implement their commitments in all three dimensions, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly on all relevant issues,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and recognizing that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law play an important role in preventing transnational threats from arising,

Considering that inter-State and intra-State conflicts throughout the OSCE area may give rise to instability and other types of risks and threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALWs, human rights violations, mass expulsion, deterioration of the socio-economic situation and illegal migration,

Recognizing that non-compliance with international law and with OSCE norms and principles, as well as a range of factors within the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts,

Commending the OSCE's contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts, in particular in support of the UN efforts and through close co-operation with other international and regional organizations, as well as the OSCE's pioneering programmes in such areas as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; promoting public-private partnerships to counter terrorism; enhancing travel document security and legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks,

Taking note of the OSCE's contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, smuggling of migrants, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as other transnational threats through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to the participating States,

Recalling our commitment to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; and taking note of the OSCE's police-related activities, including providing capacity building, democratic police training and training in key policing skills,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the OSCE border security and management activities on the basis of the 2005 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation, where appropriate, as a means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings,

Commending the progress achieved in the implementation of MC.DEC/4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and calling for intensified implementation of this decision,

Recognizing the willingness of participating States to promote a comprehensive OSCE approach to enhancing cyber security, as evidenced by the results of the March 2009 OSCE workshop on this issue,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in assisting the participating States to address transnational threats and challenges in the economic and environmental dimension, including on such issues as illegal migration, good governance, transport, energy security, and security implications of environmental challenges,

Reaffirming that practices related to discrimination and intolerance, that can have their root in issues such as ethnic and religious tensions, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia, and may also stem from racism, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, both threaten the security of individuals and may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Recognizing that the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States and concerted action,

Recognizing the importance of the OSCE's comprehensive efforts to eradicate trafficking in human beings, and paying due tribute to the activities of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as other relevant OSCE executive structures, for their dedication in providing assistance to the participating States in addressing THB,

Recognizing that many threats of a politico-military nature, including those such as destabilizing accumulations of conventional weaponry, illicit transfers of arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, remain of great concern to the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing that the effort needed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, is not confined to military means and welcoming the adoption of a Best Practice Guide on UNSCR 1540 by the Forum for Security Co-operation on 30 September 2009,

Fully recognizing that transnational threats and challenges, including inter-State and inter-organizational co-operation, remain an important topic of deliberations in the framework of the Corfu Process,

Decides to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, making full use of the OSCE's expertise and comparative advantages;

Decides to explore further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against these threats, including by improving internal co-ordination, co-operation with OSCE Partners for Co-operation and by focusing on those areas where the OSCE can add value to the work of the UN and complement activities of other international organizations, including on the basis of 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security;

Tasks all OSCE executive structures to intensify their efforts, within their current mandates and existing resources, to further consolidate the OSCE's cross-institutional responses to multidimensional threats to security, in particular in those areas which cut across the mandates of several executive structures;

Requests the Secretary General to explore ways to further strengthen programmatic co-ordination between the OSCE executive structures, as set out in MC.DEC/18/06, with particular focus on the OSCE's multidimensional activities to address transnational threats to

security, building on the Secretariat's current mandates and within available resources, and to give a first overview on progress by 1 April and to make proposals to the Permanent Council on planning in this regard no later than 1 June 2010.

DECISION No. 3/09
FURTHER MEASURES TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST TERRORISM
(MC.DEC/3/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Determined to reinforce OSCE counter-terrorism activities in accordance with international law and standards in line with existing OSCE commitments,

Reaffirming that participating States should carry out their counter-terrorist efforts, with full respect for the rule of law and in conformity with their obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions and universal conventions and protocols related to the prevention and the suppression of terrorism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant provisions of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law,

Recalling OSCE commitments under Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 (MC(9).DEC/1), the Ministerial Statement on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (MC.DOC/1/05), and the Brussels Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism (MC.DOC/5/06), and welcoming the significant progress achieved in connection with participating States becoming party to the 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols of 1963–1999, as well as the progress in the signing and ratifying of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005),

Noting the latest important developments in the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the adoption of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005), the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005), and the Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005), and desirous to facilitate their early entry into force,

Recognizing the need to implement the offence provisions from universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols into national criminal and, where applicable, also administrative and civil legislation, making them punishable by appropriate penalties, in order to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts within the rule of law and facilitate international legal co-operation based on the principle “extradite or prosecute”, as required by relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the universal anti-terrorism instruments,

Recognizing also that OSCE participating States may require technical assistance in their efforts with regard to the above,

Recognizing the important role that parliamentarians play in the ratification and national legislative implementation of the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols,

Urges those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to make every effort to become party without delay to the 13 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols currently in force and to fully implement their provisions;

Calls on OSCE participating States to consider becoming party to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005), the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005), and the Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005) and to fully implement their provisions thereafter;

Calls on OSCE participating States to consider becoming parties to regional and subregional legal instruments related to terrorism, including to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism;

Tasks the Secretary General with organizing a workshop in 2010, to assist participating States with the criminal law aspects of implementing the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols concluded in 2005, within available resources and in co-operation with the UNODC and other relevant international actors;

Tasks the Chairmanship-in-Office, in co-ordination with the OSCE executive structures, with organizing in 2010, in Astana, within available resources and in co-operation with UNODC and Council of Europe as well as other relevant international partners, an expert-level conference on successful strategies, effective policies and best practices to prevent terrorism;

Calls on the OSCE participating States to strengthen inter-State co-operation in promoting the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols through sharing technical expertise and tasks the Secretary General with continuing to facilitate inter-State co-operation, including, matching offers and requests for technical assistance between participating States;

Tasks the Secretary General and relevant OSCE executive structures, within available resources with continuing to collaborate with the UNODC in strengthening the legal regime against terrorism by promoting implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, in particular continuing to enhance and streamline, the support provided to the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Programme with regard to:

- Awareness raising and helping build the political will of participating States to become party to the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols;
- Providing technical assistance to requesting participating States in drafting anti-terrorism criminal legislation;
- Training of judicial officials in international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;

and encourages participating States to contribute voluntary funding to relevant extra-budgetary projects in these areas;

Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the OSCE commitments with regard to the international legal framework against terrorism and co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

DECISION No. 4/09
FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION
(MC.DEC/4/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Recalling the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, at Maastricht in 2003,

Welcoming the Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, its Findings and Recommendations (CIO.GAL/97/09),

Stressing the need to continue to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension,

Tasks the Permanent Council, through its relevant informal subsidiary body and with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, with identifying and adopting, by the end of 2010, appropriate measures to implement recommendations contained in the Report;

Encourages future Chairmanships, the participating States and the OSCE Secretariat to review regularly the progress achieved in implementing the Maastricht Strategy Document.

DECISION No. 5/09
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

(MC.DEC/5/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to migration, in particular the relevant provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration and the Ministerial Statement on Migration (MC.DOC/6/06),

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and recalling the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum,

Taking note of the initiatives and the work of the OSCE in the framework of the Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”,

Acknowledging the increasing importance of and the benefits stemming from effective migration management for the socio-economic development, social cohesion, security and stability in all countries including those of origin, transit and destination, and fully recognizing the human rights of migrants and their family members,

Underscoring the importance of mainstreaming migration policies into economic, social, environmental, development and security strategies and addressing migration management through co-operative, comprehensive and cross-dimensional approaches,

Underlining the need to facilitate legal migration and fight illegal migration,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experiences and best practices,

Stressing the need to deepen dialogue and co-operation at all levels within and between all States, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including social partners, business community, civil society and academia, to effectively address the opportunities and challenges related to comprehensive migration management,

Confirming that co-operation, dialogue and exchange of good practices and information on migration management issues remain an important component of the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security, supported as appropriate and within the respective mandates, capacities and resources in all three dimensions,

1. Encourages the participating States to continue to work on migration management by:
 - Paying particular attention to addressing the root causes of migration;
 - Ensuring that their national migration practices comply with their respective international obligations and OSCE commitments;

- Further elaborating and enhancing implementation of comprehensive and effective national migration policies and action plans as appropriate;
 - Improving the collection of comparable data on migration, in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange of best practices at the OSCE level;
 - Fostering co-operation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination, by facilitating effective legal migration schemes, such as circular migration and other forms of voluntary labour mobility programmes, for the benefit of the development of countries of origin and destination;
 - Respecting the human rights of migrants and increasing efforts to combat discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families;
2. Encourages the participating States to incorporate gender aspects in their migration policies, noting the recommendations of the OSCE-produced Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies;
3. Calls upon the participating States to enhance migration management by improved policy coherence between migration and economic, social, environmental and security policies, through consultation, partnership and co-operation among governments at bilateral, regional and interregional levels, as appropriate;
4. Encourages the participating States to take necessary measures to minimize negative impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on migrants by intensifying economic co-operation, creating attractive conditions for investment and business development and facilitating the flow of remittances;
5. Tasks the Permanent Council, its informal subsidiary bodies and the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates across all dimensions, within the Organization's comprehensive concept of security and within existing resources to *inter alia*:
- Provide a broad regional platform for dialogue on migration and security issues, both among OSCE participating States and between participating States and Partners for Co-operation, with the involvement of other relevant stakeholders in full conformity with the OSCE Rules of Procedure;
 - Continue working on gender aspects of migration;
 - Assist participating States, upon their request, to improve migration legislation and to elaborate and implement effective national policy frameworks, by providing advice and training, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;
 - Contribute to international efforts to assess the possible impact of environmental degradation on migratory pressures, which climate change may magnify, in order to ensure better preparedness in this area;
 - Continue to assist the participating States, upon their request, to promote effective migration management, including exchange of best practices, and to facilitate legal

migration and fight illegal migration, while paying particular attention to bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this field.

DECISION No. 6/09
STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE AND CO-OPERATION ON
ENERGY SECURITY IN THE OSCE AREA

(MC.DEC/6/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments regarding energy security in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack,

Taking note of the efforts undertaken in the implementation of those commitments and desirous to promote further co-operation and dialogue between participating States in energy security and to tackle all kinds of risks and threats to critical energy infrastructure,

Taking into account the Joint Statement of the G8 Energy Ministers and European Energy Commissioner in L'Aquila in May 2009, desirous to continue to raise awareness and enhance dialogue on the G8 Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development (2005) and reiterating support for the St. Petersburg Principles on Global Energy Security (2006),

Taking into account the potential for increased consumption of energy resources,

Bearing in mind the impact of the global financial and economic crisis and the need for continued investment in the energy sector and promotion of good public and corporate governance, while paying due respect to security and environmental aspects,

Recognizing the comparative advantage of the OSCE as a platform for broad political dialogue, as well as the growing efforts of the OSCE to promote energy security dialogue, to ensure its continuity and to facilitate the sharing of best practices between participating States, thus complementing existing bilateral and multilateral activities and initiatives in energy co-operation,

Recalling the discussions of the Chairmanship Conference on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE Area, held in Bratislava on 6 and 7 July 2009,

Recognizing that the increasing energy interdependence between producing, consuming and transit countries in the OSCE area requires co-operative dialogue, in order to enhance transparency, reliability and co-operation in the energy field, and strengthen the ability of the international community to prevent and resolve energy-related disputes,

Underlining that the interrelated challenges of climate change, energy security and efficient use of energy resources are amongst the most important issues to be tackled in the strategic perspective of ensuring sustainable development,

Acknowledging the importance of access to new energy technologies on mutually agreed terms, of alternative sources of energy and of diversifying energy supplies, routes and transportation systems, as well as of modernizing and developing existing systems,

1. Encourages the participating States, with a view to addressing energy challenges in the OSCE region, to promote awareness of the G8 St. Petersburg principles and objectives on strengthening global energy security, namely:

- Increasing transparency, predictability and stability of global energy markets;
- Improving the investment climate in the energy sector;
- Enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving;
- Diversifying energy mix;
- Ensuring physical security of critical energy infrastructure;
- Reducing energy poverty;
- Addressing climate change and sustainable development;

2. Encourages participating States, in accordance with the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 to continue to use the OSCE as a platform for energy security dialogue, without duplicating the activities carried out in bilateral and multilateral energy co-operation fora, in order to:

- Contribute to security and stability in the OSCE area;
- Strengthen co-operation among the participating States in the energy field, including at regional and subregional level, as appropriate;

3. Tasks the Permanent Council, supported by the OSCE Secretariat, with organizing in 2010 an OSCE special expert meeting with the aim of assessing OSCE's future contribution to international energy security co-operation;

4. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General to submit in 2010 a report, for consideration by the Permanent Council, based on the outcomes of and recommendations formulated at the above event as well as on his consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, concerning the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security;

5. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, in co-operation with other OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources, to continue providing assistance to participating States, at their request, to support the exchange of best practices and build capacity in the areas related to energy security, *inter alia* energy efficiency, energy savings and the development of and investment in renewable sources of energy;

6. Encourage the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

DECISION No. 7/09
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE
(MC.DEC/7/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE commitments for the advancement of gender equality, non-discrimination and promotion of men's and women's equal right to participate in political and public life,

Mindful of the continued under-representation of women in the OSCE area in decision-making structures within the legislative, executive, including police services, and judicial branches,

Concerned that widespread discrimination against women, continues to undermine their effective participation in political and public life at all levels,

Recognizing that keeping OSCE commitments under review, including in appropriate OSCE fora, can help to develop more effective approaches and measures,

Reaffirming that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous, and democratic OSCE area,

Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to proactively implement throughout the Organization the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation and 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of their full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Taking note of UN Security Council resolution 1889 (2009), which urges international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes,

Noting that 18 December 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which aims at ending discrimination against women in political and public life, and noting that 10 December marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Convention's Protocol for signature,

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in political and public life,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Consider providing for specific measures to achieve the goal of gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including security services, such as police services;
2. Consider possible legislative measures, which would facilitate a more balanced participation of women and men in political and public life and especially in decision-making;
3. Encourage all political actors to promote equal participation of women and men in political parties, with a view to achieving better gender-balanced representation in elected public offices at all levels of decision-making;
4. Consider taking measures to create equal opportunities within the security services, including the armed forces, where relevant, to allow for balanced recruitment, retention and promotion of men and women;
5. Develop and introduce where necessary open and participatory processes that enhance participation of women and men in all phases of developing legislation, programmes and policies;
6. Allow for the equal contribution of women and men to peace-building initiatives;
7. Take necessary steps to establish, where appropriate, effective national mechanisms for measuring women's equal participation and representation;
8. Support, as appropriate, non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies and awareness-raising initiatives for identifying specific challenges in women's participation in political and public life and, in promoting equality of opportunities between women and men;
9. Encourage shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men in order to facilitate women's equal opportunities to participate effectively in political and public life.

DECISION No. 8/09
ENHANCING OSCE EFFORTS TO ENSURE ROMA AND SINTI
SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION

(MC.DEC/8/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including those in the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area,

Recognizing that some efforts have been undertaken by the participating States to this end,

Noting that limited progress had been made in closing the significant gaps that remain between Roma and Sinti people and wider societies in several areas,

Taking note of the ODIHR's 2008 Status Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of the Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area,

Emphasizing that resolute action is required to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti across the OSCE region,

Convinced that the participating States should seek to maximize Roma and Sinti ownership of the policies that affect them, and that Roma and Sinti communities should be partners and share responsibility for implementing those policies designed to promote their integration,

Recognizing the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti and the need to take effective measures in order to eradicate discrimination against them and ensure their sustainable integration consistent with OSCE commitments,

Concerned that Roma and Sinti belong to communities that continue to be affected by racism and discrimination and that prejudice and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti have increased,

Noting that in times of global economic downturn, Roma and Sinti belong to those that are especially vulnerable to becoming subject to irrational hostility and societal blame,

Aware that manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti may not only result in increased exclusion and marginalization but might also endanger the social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in the wider society,

Acknowledging that Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08 on enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area was a significant step towards ensuring equal access to education and highlighting the importance of the benefits of early education,

Taking note of the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and its working session on the specifically selected topic on Roma and Sinti early education,

Stressing the importance of relevant OSCE institutions and structures in fulfilling their mandates by supporting the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, and of effective co-ordination and co-operation within the OSCE to this end,

1. Calls upon the participating States to enhance their efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area and advance the process of sustainable integration of Roma and Sinti;
2. Calls upon the participating States to continue to supply information to the ODIHR on progress made on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of the Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area;
3. Urges the participating States to step up their efforts in promoting tolerance and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti people in order to prevent their further marginalization and exclusion and to address the rise of violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti as well as to unequivocally and publicly condemn any violence targeting Roma and Sinti, and to take all necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies, in accordance with national judicial, administrative, mediation and conciliation procedures, as well as to secure co-ordination between responsible authorities at all levels in this regard;
4. Calls upon the participating States to enhance, in an appropriate way, the participation of Roma and Sinti in the design, implementation and evaluation of the policies that affect them, as well as to promote dialogue between Roma and Sinti people and the wider society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security;
5. Calls upon the participating States, in co-operation with Roma and Sinti, to identify and examine the challenges of Roma and Sinti migration relevant to their sustainable integration within the OSCE area;
6. Tasks the ODIHR, in co-operation and co-ordination with the HCNM and the Representative of Freedom of the Media and other relevant OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and within existing resources, to continue to assist participating States to combat acts of discrimination and violence against Roma and Sinti, to counter negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti in the media taking into account relevant OSCE freedom of the media commitments, and to implement fully OSCE commitments pertaining in particular to the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area as well as to address the challenges linked to the sustainable and successful integration of Roma and Sinti;
7. Encourages participating States to address early education for Roma and Sinti in a comprehensive manner, with special attention to ensuring equal access to education and integrating Roma and Sinti into mainstream education;
8. Tasks the ODIHR, in consultation with the participating States and in close co-operation with other relevant OSCE institutions, within their mandates, to develop and

implement relevant projects on the issue of Roma and Sinti early education, such as projects on teacher training and on overcoming low school attendance;

9. Encourages the relevant OSCE institutions to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant international actors such as the Council of Europe and the European Union, when appropriate, as well as civil society actors focusing on Roma and Sinti related issues;

10. Invites the Director of the ODIHR to keep the participating States informed about the ODIHR's work in assisting participating States to promote Roma and Sinti sustainable integration during his or her regular reporting to the Permanent Council.

DECISION No. 9/09
COMBATING HATE CRIMES
(MC.DEC/9/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values,

Reaffirming that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion, and reiterating that they may give rise to conflict and violence on a wider scale,

Concerned by hate crimes throughout the OSCE region and acknowledging the need for co-operation to combat such crimes effectively, and taking note of the ODIHR report entitled "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses", as tasked by the participating States,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, and acknowledging that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with the participating States,

Acknowledging that hate crimes are criminal offences committed with a bias motive,

Taking note of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, and recognizing the role hate crimes, discrimination and intolerance can play in fuelling violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

Acknowledging the need for more consistent, comprehensive and comparable data on hate crimes, highlighted *inter alia* in the ODIHR report,

Welcoming the work done by the ODIHR in providing assistance to participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to address hate crimes,

Taking note of the 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Hate Crimes – Effective Implementation of Legislation and of the second annual meeting of the National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes,

Recognizing that the global economic downturn may increase incidents of hate crimes in the OSCE area,

Acknowledging that victims of hate crimes may belong to both minority and majority communities,

Acknowledging the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office in support of the overall OSCE effort to combat hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance in accordance with their mandate,

Recognizing the instrumental role that political representatives can play in taking the lead in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect, maintain and make public, reliable data and statistics in sufficient detail on hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance, including the numbers of cases reported to law enforcement, the numbers prosecuted and the sentences imposed. Where data-protection laws restrict collection of data on victims, States should consider methods for collecting data in compliance with such laws;
2. Enact, where appropriate, specific, tailored legislation to combat hate crimes, providing for effective penalties that take into account the gravity of such crimes;
3. Take appropriate measures to encourage victims to report hate crimes, recognizing that under-reporting of hate crimes prevents States from devising efficient policies. In this regard, explore, as complementary measures, methods for facilitating, the contribution of civil society to combat hate crimes;
4. Introduce or further develop professional training and capacity-building activities for law-enforcement, prosecution and judicial officials dealing with hate crimes;
5. In co-operation with relevant actors, explore ways to provide victims of hate crimes with access to counselling, legal and consular assistance as well as effective access to justice;
6. Promptly investigate hate crimes and ensure that the motives of those convicted of hate crimes are acknowledged and publicly condemned by the relevant authorities and by the political leadership;
7. Ensure co-operation, where appropriate, at the national and international levels, including with relevant international bodies and between police forces, to combat violent organized hate crime;
8. Conduct awareness raising and education efforts, particularly with law enforcement authorities, directed towards communities and civil society groups that assist victims of hate crimes;
9. Nominate, if they have not yet done so, a national point of contact on hate crimes to periodically report to the ODIHR reliable information and statistics on hate crimes;
10. Consider drawing on resources developed by the ODIHR in the area of education, training and awareness raising to ensure a comprehensive approach to the tackling of hate crimes;

11. Calls on the participating States to seek opportunities to co-operate and thereby address the increasing use of the Internet to advocate views constituting an incitement to bias-motivated violence including hate crimes and, in so doing, to reduce the harm caused by the dissemination of such material, while ensuring that any relevant measures taken are in line with OSCE commitments, in particular with regard to freedom of expression;
12. Tasks the ODIHR to explore, in consultations with the participating States and in co-operation with relevant international organizations and civil society partners, the potential link between the use of the Internet and bias-motivated violence and the harm it causes as well as eventual practical steps to be taken;
13. Invites the Director of the ODIHR to keep the participating States informed about the ODIHR's work in assisting the participating States to combat hate crimes during his or her regular reporting to the Permanent Council.

DECISION No. 10/09
OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE
AND NON-DISCRIMINATION
(MC.DEC/10/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values and that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security, Decision No. 4/03, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Council meeting (Maastricht, 2003), Decision No. 12/04, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Council meeting (Sofia, 2004), Decision No. 10/05, adopted at the 13th Ministerial Council meeting (Ljubljana, 2005), Decision No. 13/06, adopted at the 14th Ministerial Council meeting (Brussels, 2006), Decision No. 10/07, adopted at the 15th Ministerial Council meeting (Madrid, 2007), Decision No. 6/08, adopted at the 16th Ministerial Council meeting (Helsinki, 2008) and Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633,

Recalling the OSCE's focus on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, embodied in the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance, the June 2007 Bucharest Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, and recalling the outcomes of those conferences,

Reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and fundamental freedoms, and recalling other relevant international obligations,

Decides to convene, in Astana on 29 and 30 June 2010, an OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-discrimination, including a comprehensive review of the relevant OSCE commitments, and welcomes the offer by Kazakhstan to host that Conference;

Tasks the Permanent Council, in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure, to adopt the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the Conference.

DECISION No. 11/09
TRAVEL DOCUMENT SECURITY –
ICAO PUBLIC KEY DIRECTORY
(MC.DEC/11/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE commitments to counter terrorism, in particular to enhance travel document security as stipulated by the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (MC(9).DEC/1), the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Travel Document Security (MC.DEC/7/03), as well as two Ministerial Council Decisions in Sofia (MC.DEC/4/04) and Brussels (MC.DEC/6/06) encouraging greater use of the INTERPOL Stolen/Lost Travel Document Database, and acknowledging the significant contribution by the OSCE in the area of travel document security,

Reaffirming its commitment to implement effective and resolute measures against terrorism and to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents while facilitating the free and secure movement of persons in conformity with relevant legal frameworks,

Acknowledging the importance of cross-border communication for international co-operation in countering international terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in all its forms, and the added value of the OSCE in facilitating assistance and providing a framework for co-operation on these issues,

Taking note of the wide scale implementation of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) by the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing the need to enable relevant national authorities to effectively validate the authenticity of electronic security features and biometric data stored in eMRTDs as a precondition for the verification of the identity of the bearer of an eMRTD on the basis of the aforesaid features and data,

Taking note of the work by ICAO in developing the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) to promote a globally interoperable validation system for eMRTDs in order to significantly improve border security measures and thereby to contribute to counter terrorism and to the prevention of illegal cross-border activities,

Taking note of the G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers statement of 29–30 May 2009, which fully supports the participation of ICAO Contracting States in the ICAO PKD and requests all states to verify the authenticity of the information in ePassport chips and to use the ICAO PKD,

Noting that it is ICAO recommended practice that States issuing or intending to issue ePassports and/or implementing automated checks on ePassports at border controls should participate in the PKD,

Calls on the participating States to consider becoming participants in the ICAO PKD, subject to administrative and financial resources, and thereby to contribute to enabling border control and other relevant national authorities to validate digital signatures of electronic eMRTDs;

Encourages participating States with the capability to do so to provide financial and technical assistance in implementing this measure to other participating States that request it;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize, within available resources, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-operation with ICAO an OSCE expert workshop in 2010 in Vienna, designed to raise awareness and to facilitate the participation in and the use of the ICAO PKD by the participating States;

Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement this decision and other OSCE commitments on travel document security.

DECISION No. 12/09
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2012
(MC.DEC/12/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Ireland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2012.

DECISION No. 13/09
GRANTING OF THE STATUS OF PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION
TO AUSTRALIA

(MC.DEC/13/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Noting with appreciation the letter by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia (CIO.GAL/182/09), requesting that Australia be granted the status of Partner for Co-operation,

Noting with satisfaction that Australia has supported the OSCE principles and objectives since its beginning as a Helsinki process in 1973 and shares its comprehensive and co-operative approach to security and related issues of economic and human development,

Noting also that Australia is interested in establishing close relations with the OSCE through the exchange of views and information on various issues of mutual interest and participation in OSCE meetings and activities,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 430, dated 19 July 2001,

Recalling the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (MC.DOC/1/07),

With reference to the OSCE Rules of Procedure (MC.DOC/1/06),

Decides:

- To welcome Australia as a Partner for Co-operation;
- To invite Australia to participate in the meetings of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation;
- All provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and other OSCE documents related to States referred to in paragraph IV.1(D)4 shall be applicable for Australia.

DECISION No. 14/09
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(MC.DEC/14/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Eighteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Astana on 1 and 2 December 2010, without prejudice to a possible decision by the Permanent Council to hold a Meeting of Heads of State or Government in 2010.

DECISION No. 15/09
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

(MC.DEC/15/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and in contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Also recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Taking note of the active role taken by the OSCE in international efforts based on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the 2010 Biennial Meeting of States to Review the UN Programme of Action on SALW in All Its Aspects,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000), the OSCE Document on SCA (FSC.DOC/1/03, 19 November 2003), and related FSC decisions,

Recognizing the importance of improving the management, security and safety of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction of surplus SCA and in upgrading stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Noting the crucial importance of co-ordination and co-operation between different organizations and other relevant actors to the effective addressing of the aforementioned challenges, and with the intention of strengthening the OSCE's contribution to these efforts within existing resources and/or extrabudgetary contributions,

1. Welcomes, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
 - The progress reports on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA and on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, as submitted to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 11/08, adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The FSC Chairperson's summary report on the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions held in accordance with

Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08, adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;

2. Requests the Forum for Security Co-operation to:
 - Remain seized of matters related to SALW and SCA in 2010;
 - Develop a plan of action on SALW, taking into consideration suggestions made at the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions, by May 2010;
 - Take an active role in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;
 - Take steps to review the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 with regard to the establishment or reinforcement of a legal framework for lawful brokering activities within the national jurisdiction of participating States by the end of 2010;
 - Take concrete steps to further the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit SALW;
 - Continue its efforts to support OSCE participating States seeking assistance in the destruction of SALW stockpiles and SCA in surplus and/or awaiting destruction and to upgrade stockpile management and security practices of those participating States that request assistance, through effective co-ordination and co-operation with other actors where relevant;
 - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2010 on these tasks and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Document on SCA;
3. Encourages participating States to provide extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either to a specific project or by providing resources to the OSCE Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to continue efforts to enhance co-ordination and co-operation with other international and regional organizations in order to develop synergies, increase effectiveness and promote a coherent approach to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

DECISION No. 16/09
ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION

(MC.DEC/16/09 of 2 December 2009)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation, and reaffirming that the participating States will ensure that the efforts they make in the Forum to advance arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention are coherent, interrelated and complementary,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 3, adopted in Bucharest in 2001 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, which *inter alia* enjoined the FSC to be more closely connected with the overall OSCE work on current security issues,

Desirous of further building upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council,

Determined to continue enhancing the implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures in the framework of the Vienna Document 1999, taking into account the evolving nature of threats to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Also determined to continue enhancing the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

Wishing to demonstrate further the commitment of the OSCE participating States to fulfilling the obligations of United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) 1540 (2004), UNSCR 1673 (2006) and UNSCR 1810 (2008),

Wishing also to demonstrate the commitment of the OSCE participating States to fulfilling the obligations of UNSCR 1887 (2009),

Taking note of Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 adopted in Athens in 2009 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition,

1. Welcomes, within the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC):
 - The progress reports on effort to improve further the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and on efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures in accordance with its mandate;
 - The active discussions in the Security Dialogue in 2009 that *inter alia* continued to address the armed conflict in August 2008, including in the light of the “Tagliavini report” and its main findings, and other conflict situations and security problems within and adjacent to the OSCE area in a consultative and constructive manner;

- FSC decisions on improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and existing confidence- and security-building measures, including the Best Practice Guide for Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 Chapter IV, Contacts;
 - Progress made in implementing UNSCR 1540 (2004) and developing best practice guides on its implementation;
 - The FSC’s discussions towards developing a comprehensive approach to enhancing cyber security;
2. Calls on the FSC, in 2010, in accordance with its mandate, to:
- Intensify further the Security Dialogue to address key security issues in the OSCE region, including on the role of arms control and CSBMs in the evolving security environment;
 - Explore ways in which to strengthen the OSCE’s politico-military toolbox, with particular attention to strengthening current arms control and CSBM instruments, including strengthening the Vienna Document 1999;
 - Continue to explore ways in which to improve implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and contribute to discussions on the principles inherent in the Code;
 - Facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004), UNSCR 1673 (2006) and UNSCR 1810 (2008);
 - Also facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1887 (2009);
 - Contribute to improving OSCE procedures and mechanisms in the area of crisis management;
3. Requests the FSC to submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2010 on its work. These reports should include efforts to improve further the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures in accordance with the FSC’s mandate, and other areas, as appropriate.

III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

**ADDRESS BY
THE OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE, PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,
TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.DEL/8/09 of 1 December 2009)

Dear ministers,
Heads of delegation,
Secretary General,
Directors of OSCE institutions,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure as Chairman-in-Office to welcome you all to the 17th Ministerial Council of the OSCE. I am pleased that so many ministers of foreign affairs have come to Athens, and believe there could be no more appropriate place to reinvigorate an Organization that has done so much to strengthen democratic governance across our region. I know that you have travelled here sharing our common conviction, that we can achieve great things over the next two days. I hope that we can all return home having done our utmost to advance the cause of common, comprehensive and indivisible security for all of the peoples of the OSCE area.

As 2009 draws to a close, we find ourselves approaching the end of the Greek Chairmanship.

Much has happened this year to remind us that security in our region remains a work in progress. The global economic crisis has affected all our countries. We have worked hard to contain the aftermath of armed conflict in Georgia. Instability in Afghanistan continues to pose multi-faceted challenges for the security of our region. These are all potent reminders that we have still a lot of unfinished business ahead of us.

Despite often contrary winds, we have arrived in a safe port in Athens. But the year is not over. We have to agree on important decisions in the next two days to strengthen co-operative security across the OSCE area, to shape the work of our Organization, and to build a strong foundation for Kazakhstan to build upon as it assumes the OSCE Chairmanship on 1 January.

I hope that a constructive spirit will prevail in our deliberations, and we will part tomorrow with concrete results.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Greek Chairmanship has been guided by a single principle this year – the determination to serve as an “honest broker” to facilitate a renewed dialogue between the participating States in order to restore trust and build new common purpose.

This principle underpinned our decision to host the first informal ministerial meeting of the OSCE on Corfu in late June.

The meeting in Corfu provided a ray of hope in a stormy year. It was the first attempt for an informal, frank and open dialogue at the ministers' level on the current state and the future prospects of European security. We found broad acknowledgement of the fact that the OSCE, with its unique concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security and inclusive composition, provides an irreplaceable framework for restoring confidence and trust and for enhancing co-operation. On this basis, and with your unanimous valuable support, the Greek Chairmanship has launched the Corfu Process.

The discussions that followed in Vienna at the ambassadors' level, aimed to identify the main elements pertaining to the foundations for security in the Euro-Atlantic area, the challenges arising across the three OSCE dimensions, and obstacles to the implementation of commitments undertaken by the participating States.

Now, we must take our efforts a step further. We should decide on how we will move this process forward; how to determine concrete objectives, themes, modalities and benchmarks. These should be spelled out in clear, strong language. We must find the courage to move from dialogue to action. This will be our key strategic task today and tomorrow. We must end 2009 with strong foundations of clarity and resolve, in order to usher in the New Year – and the upcoming Chairmanship of Kazakhstan – with new direction and purpose.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The new dialogue on European security can be meaningful only in so far as it is tied to concrete progress on key security challenges.

Over the course of the past year, we have seen some positive movement in settling longstanding obstacles to co-operative security in our region. The bold political decisions taken by Turkey and Armenia have not been easy, but they are very important.

We must now bring this same spirit of reconciliation to the unresolved conflicts that persist in the OSCE area. Through the unwavering efforts of the Greek Chairmanship, as it has also been the case in previous years, there has been no lack of valiant attempts to resolve these conflicts. Even last week, the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Munich, under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group. Also last month, an informal meeting was held in Vienna, of the "5+2" negotiating format aimed at resolving the Transnistrian conflict. The OSCE, together with the UN and the EU, has co-chaired eight rounds of discussions held in Geneva on security and stability in Georgia following the August 2008 conflict, and we have seen some movement to stabilise ceasefire lines and to restore emergency channels of communication.

These are important steps, for which I would like to thank my special representatives, Ambassador Christopoulos and Ambassador Kasprzyk. Their dedication to creating the conditions for the peaceful settlement of conflicts has been remarkable and recognized by all.

Yet hard work remains ahead in resolving these conflicts – not just for the negotiators designated by the Chairmanship to act on our behalf, but also for us, the participating States of the OSCE, in summoning the required political will to move ahead.

We must take qualitative steps forward to stabilize the situation in Georgia. Let us make no mistake – this effort suffered a setback this year with the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. I am convinced that the need for the OSCE presence, in the conflict zones and throughout Georgia, is greater today than ever before – the Organization has unparalleled experience and unique tools to support efforts to promote peace, stability, democracy and the rule of law. It is time for the participating States to make the leap necessary to agree to a new OSCE presence on the ground.

The Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group have worked tirelessly to support the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan as they approach the time to take difficult decisions aimed at resolving their differences. Here in Athens, we must leave no doubt that this process enjoys the solid support of the entire OSCE community.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

One month from today, Greece's Chairmanship marathon will come to an end, and we will pass the torch to Kazakhstan. We have high hopes for the contribution the incoming Chairmanship can make in promoting conflict settlement and crisis management next year. Rest assured that Greece will provide full support to these efforts through its presence in the OSCE Troika.

We also welcome the heightened attention the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship will bring to bringing in the forefront of our attention the pressing priorities on security in Central Asia and in Afghanistan.

Two years ago in Madrid, the OSCE foreign ministers agreed that our Organization has a role to play in helping to promote security and stability in and around Afghanistan. Since then, the focus of OSCE work has fallen on strengthening border security and management on Afghanistan's northern border with its Central Asian neighbours, enhancing both national and regional law enforcement capacities as well as cross-border co-operation.

These efforts deserve our praise. But clearly, there is scope for the OSCE to do more, including through limited project activity on Afghan territory.

Long-term security and stability in Afghanistan can only be built on the basis of stronger regional co-operation with and around the country, including the constructive involvement of the country's Central Asian neighbours. Regional teamwork should be promoted by all key international actors and organizations that are active in the region, including the OSCE. We are convinced that Kazakhstan, as Chair of the OSCE in 2010, can make a decisive difference in this regard, with the support of all of us.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The economic and environmental dimension has been at the heart of the Greek Chairmanship's priorities. This is only natural given the importance for our common security of challenges that arise in this field.

The 17th Economic and Environmental Forum saw productive discussions on the cross-dimensional aspects of migration. The scope and complexity of international migration has increased in the last years across the OSCE area. Stronger inter-State co-operation at the bilateral, regional and global levels is essential to elaborating and implementing sustainable policy solutions.

As we close a year that opened with the most severe gas crisis in recent memory, I hope that we can find agreement on a targeted role for the OSCE in promoting an inclusive, goal-oriented dialogue on aspects of energy security. We agreed to this in principle in Maastricht in 2003. Let's take the next step for a more enhanced engagement.

A week before the opening of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, our deliberations on the security implications of climate change are also highly relevant. These issues matter to people in the street. The OSCE can and should have something to contribute.

This year, Greece has worked tirelessly to take forward the OSCE *acquis* in the human dimension, and to support the implementation by all of the commitments we have undertaken. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were important guiding themes that underpinned all of our efforts in 2009.

This goes to the essence of the OSCE concept of security. Since 1975, our common endeavour has been driven by the idea that security begins with the "inherent dignity of the individual." We have agreed that genuine security can only be comprehensive, including politico-military co-operation, healthy economic governance and the rule of law. We have also agreed that the security of States is impossible without the security of societies and individuals.

This concept is demanding of States and societies. It is a project that requires permanent engagement by all, in working to achieve the implementation of commitments and in refining them to meet new needs. Throughout 2009, Greece has sought to support its partners in taking this concept forward in practice.

One area in which this effort has been particularly visible has been election observation, which remains a flagship activity of the Organization. This year saw key elections in the OSCE area. OSCE election observation methodology remains a gold standard the world over, and a justifiable source of pride. I wish to commend the ODIHR as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for their complementary and fruitful co-operation in observing elections and in promoting the further improvement of electoral systems throughout our region. I would also like to thank the ODIHR and the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing and executing a challenging election support team in Afghanistan.

Dear ministers,
Secretary General,
Ladies and gentlemen,

If I have been less laconic than I would have liked, it is because I wanted to share with you an overview of the main themes in our full agenda for the next two days. I look forward to working with you to make this meeting a success.

In finishing, I wish to thank once again the previous Finnish Chairmanship for the strong legacy we inherited last January – dear Alexander Stubb, your hospitality and your efficient management of the 2008 Ministerial Council decisions set high standards for the Greek Chairmanship. We also wish every success to the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship. Dear Kanat Saudabayev, chairing the OSCE is always challenging but also always interesting; you can count on our full support throughout 2010.

I wish also to take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of the Chairmanship to our Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, to the OSCE Secretariat, to the OSCE institutions and to the OSCE field missions for all their invaluable support, hard work and dedication throughout this year.

I am fully convinced that the decisions that we will adopt over the next 48 hours will further strengthen our Organization and bring us closer to achieving our common objectives, and I am fully committed to work with all of you to this end.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN
(ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)**

(Annex 2 to MC(17) Journal No. 1 of 1 December 2009)

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,
Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to address the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council on behalf of the European Union. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Papandreou on the successful Greek Chairmanship and express our gratitude for the warm Greek hospitality here in Athens.

Before entering into the substance of this meeting, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the European Union has taken another historic step today and celebrates the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The treaty contains important provisions that will strengthen the European Union's capabilities to act effectively on the international scene. We now have a President of the European Council and a High Representative who will represent the Union on foreign and security policy matters, to be supported by a European Diplomatic Service, the European External Action Service. Furthermore, the Common Security and Defence Policy, in close co-ordination with other EU instruments, plays a key role in EU's contribution to international peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

European security must be comprehensive, inclusive and indivisible.

Our annual meeting affords an excellent opportunity to take stock of the state of the security of the OSCE area and give impetus to the ongoing work of the Organization to promote peace and stability in our region.

Twenty years ago the map of Europe was changed dramatically when we witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dawn of a new future for Europe. What happened then, in so many places behind the iron curtain, was the European revolution for freedom, democracy and unification that continues to shape our part of the world and inspire so many others. Europe was transformed, but not as so often happened in the past by soldiers, weapons and war. It was transformed by the free choice of free nations to come together through structures and policies of integration which have no parallel in human history.

The enlargement of the European Union has in itself contributed positively to European security and stability. It is our clear ambition to promote continued progress in the process of EU-enlargement, as a contribution to peace and stability on the European continent, involving a number of our OSCE partners. The ongoing accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey are high on our agenda. The EU will, furthermore, continue to encourage and support the EU integration of the countries in the Western Balkans on the basis of the reform progress in each country. The EU highly appreciates the efforts of OSCE field missions, which play key roles in assisting the host nations in their reforms.

The momentous events of 1989 were also the starting point for the process that transformed the CSCE into the OSCE and the adoption of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

However, history did not end there – new and old challenges to our common security require our constant attention. Challenges such as the protracted conflicts and the armed conflict between Russia and Georgia in August 2008, recurring human rights violations, energy security and the security implications of climate change continue to call for international and regional solutions.

The EU fully subscribes to the comprehensive approach to security championed by the OSCE. We are continuously reminded that security is not only the absence of armed conflict, but also depends on progress regarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The security of the individual is clearly linked to the security of the state. We need to remain vigilant in this regard.

The broad security concept is also fundamental to our ability to find appropriate international responses to complex transnational challenges – such as terrorism, climate change, human trafficking and organized crime – facing us in Europe today. Here too, the OSCE can offer a useful platform for our joint efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU remains firmly committed to the core values of this Organization. We are concerned, however, that there is a clear lack of political trust and confidence between major stakeholders in European security, which also affects the ability of this Organization to conduct its work and act in times of crisis and conflict. The EU is open to exploring ways to further strengthen and reinvigorate the existing structures.

Against this backdrop, the EU commends the Greek Chairmanship for its leadership on the Corfu Process on the future of European security. The dialogue on European security has great potential when based on our agreed OSCE principles and commitments. The Corfu Process can promote understanding, restore trust and strengthen our capacity to address challenges in all three OSCE dimensions. The EU wants the Corfu Process to lead to a stronger and revitalised OSCE that can better meet present and future challenges – an “OSCE Plus”.

Ever since the launch of the Corfu initiative, the EU has been fully committed to work constructively with all participating States to reach a substantive and well-balanced outcome here in Athens without compromising our guiding principles. We support the adoption of a declaration on the European security dialogue and a decision on furthering the Corfu Process.

A dialogue on the future of European security cannot take place in a vacuum. In order to be relevant, the Corfu process must address the real security threats and challenges facing us in Europe. Some of them lie outside the immediate remit of the OSCE. The agenda should be forward-looking, comprehensive, yet focused. In our view, the following themes would provide a solid strategic direction and are fully supported by the EU.

First: we should strengthen our work on conflict prevention and resolution.

Second: we should explore ways to strengthen our responses to transnational threats and challenges.

Third: we should address how we can improve the situation in the OSCE area for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law.

Fourth: the agenda should focus on better implementing the arms control regimes as well as confidence- and security-building measures, and updating them when necessary.

Fifth: we should address ways to improve the shortcomings in implementation of existing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions.

It is clear that the OSCE, with its broad participation and comprehensive approach to security, must be the anchor of the ongoing European security dialogue through the Corfu Process. The European Union wants to see a continued leading role for the Permanent Representatives, reflecting the strategic and comprehensive nature of the process. The Union sees it as necessary to have an “organizational engine” for the process.

The character of the process should be inclusive and transparent. Other subregional, regional and international organizations relevant to all three dimensions could be consulted on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security. Partners for co-operation could also usefully be consulted and the process could benefit from input from civil society and the academic world.

Let me also reiterate that the EU is open to a high-level meeting within the OSCE, provided that it is motivated by substance.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU considers that conflict prevention and conflict resolution should be at the heart of the work of the OSCE. Over the years the OSCE has developed unique instruments to address these issues, prominently demonstrated by the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and also the confidence-and democracy-building work carried out by the OSCE field missions. Such instruments and other mechanisms must be safeguarded and enhanced. I would in this regard particularly like to highlight the importance of the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We remain fully convinced of the need for a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia and will continue to work actively towards that end. We regret that – despite the support of an overwhelming majority of participating States, including the EU Member States – no consensus for such a presence could be reached on the basis of the Chairmanship’s status-neutral draft decision. We encourage, once again, the Russian Federation to reconsider its position for the sake of security and stability in the region.

The EU reiterates its full support for the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group towards a solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on an appropriate combination of support for the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as expressed by the EU in its Partnership and Co-operation Agreements and in its Action Plans for these two countries,

with other OSCE principles, notably the non-use of force or threat of its use and the equal right of peoples to self-determination. We welcome the intensified negotiations this year, including the bilateral meeting on 22 November between presidents Aliyev and Sargasian. We call again upon Armenia and Azerbaijan to take the necessary decisions to achieve a breakthrough with the endorsement of the Basic Principles proposed in Madrid on 29 November 2007.

We remain firmly determined to seek a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova. We call for the resumption, as soon as possible and without preconditions, of negotiations in the 5+2 format, the only forum capable of guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy needed to achieve a lasting solution.

Let me underline the great importance the EU attaches to arms control. A functioning Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) will provide transparency, predictability and confidence in Europe as a whole. The EU calls on the Russian Federation to immediately resume the application of the treaty. We hope that the stalemate on the way forward in ratification of the 1999 Agreement on Adaptation can be overcome. This would also open the treaty for accession by new countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU appreciates the cross-dimensional work of the OSCE and attaches great importance to the human dimension. We will continue to defend and strengthen established institutions, commitments and practice in the field of the human dimension. We will pay particular attention to safeguarding the autonomous standing of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), including in regard to its election observation. We also fully support the activities of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM).

We stress the need for the OSCE to strengthen and expand commitments related to freedom and pluralism of the media.

Mr. Chairperson,

Co-operation between the EU and OSCE has expanded considerably in recent years and covers a wide agenda of regional and thematic issues, including elections, border management, the fight against trafficking in human beings and the rule of law. The recently launched Eastern Partnership provides yet another platform to enhance co-operation between the EU and the OSCE. We welcome the contribution of the OSCE to the establishment and consolidation of the Partnership's multilateral track, as well as making progress in each partner country's bilateral relationship with the EU.

The EU also values the co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The legal instruments provided by the Council of Europe, and in particular the European Convention on Human Rights, contribute to the fabric of the European security structure. We welcome the recent adoption by consensus of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Alliance of Civilizations.

The EU also fully supports the endeavours to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE and stresses the need to provide the OSCE with an international legal personality as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me conclude by welcoming Kazakhstan as the new Chair of our Organization. The Kazakh Chairmanship will open a new chapter in the history of the OSCE, drawing particular attention to the Central Asian region from the international community, media and civil society. The EU looks forward to close and successful co-operation with the incoming Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Saudabayev.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (ALSO ON
BEHALF OF ARMENIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN,
KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN)**

(Annex 1 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

The delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, which co-authored the draft Ministerial Council decision on freedom of movement, regret that that document was not supported by a number of participating States. This happened despite the fact that the draft was submitted in good time and the wishes of the delegations involved in the drafting work were taken into account in the text of the document.

Freedom of movement is one of the most important fundamental human rights and freedoms. Commitments regarding freedom of movement are set out in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Vienna Document (1989), the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Budapest Document (1994) and the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (2005).

We advocate the full implementation by all the OSCE participating States of the commitments in this sphere, including the commitment to liberalize visa regimes.

We urge our partners to engage in a broad-based dialogue within the OSCE on this subject in 2010, including within the Corfu Process, with a view to achieving concrete results for the benefit of the citizens of all participating States.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.

**CONCLUDING REMARKS BY
THE OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE, PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,
TO THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.DEL/73/09 of 2 December 2009)

Ministers and heads of delegation,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to close the Seventeenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. I wish to thank you all for coming to Athens and also for your support and hard work throughout the year.

Chairing the OSCE is both a challenging and an exciting experience. In this venue, images of Olympic sporting events of great skill and difficulty come easily to mind.

Where else can we find such a group of States, working together, despite their many differences, to broaden their similarities and to deepen their common co-operation on the basis of ambitious commitments to a comprehensive concept of security?

This is the nature of this unique forum, which we created together to underpin the commonality of our purpose. In essence, the OSCE is a work in progress. The Organization has always been more of a project than an institution. From its earliest days at the 1975 Helsinki Conference, the purpose of this project has been to build a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace with itself and the rest of the world. Since the beginning, this project has been driven by an innovative concept of security. It is that security starts with the “inherent dignity of the human person” and must take in political-military co-operation between States, as well as the development of healthy economic and environmental governance, and the protection of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Taking this forward in practice requires constant dedication, continuous endurance and engagement. It is not an easy task, bearing in mind the diversities in our vast area, of which we are proud.

Since 1975, our predecessors produced historic changes in the OSCE area. As so many of you reminded us, we commemorated this year twenty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Wall that divided our continent, separating our families and splitting our peoples.

Our work is not complete. Conflicts have not been resolved. Peoples remain displaced from their homes. We can do more to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster tolerance in our increasingly pluralistic societies. Dividing lines remain in our minds. Distrust and misperceptions can only but divide. We have to eliminate them. And the best way to do so is to engage in an open, frank and bona fide dialogue. We have to better understand each other; our different perspectives and concerns as well as our specificities.

This concept was born here in Athens, two and a half thousand years ago, and was passed down to us as the fundamental tool for building confidence among individuals, communities and states.

Ladies and gentlemen, we turn a new page for our Organization today, with the adoption, after seven years, of a political declaration which encompasses all our main premises regarding our common security.

I am very touched by the warm reception that our initiative has received by all our partners. With the Corfu Declaration and the Corfu decision, which we have just adopted, the Corfu Process is formally a reality and the common legacy of all 56 participating States for the years to come. The Greek Chairmanship is both proud for this common achievement and grateful to all our partners.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We clearly need concrete results. We are aware that addressing all security problems in the OSCE area will be a long-term endeavour. But we already felt the mitigating effect of the Corfu Process during our meetings, yesterday and today. I detected an unprecedented degree of good will and a spirit of consensus-building in our deliberations here in Athens. We would like to express our special appreciation to the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship for their willingness to accommodate participating States' concerns, even at the last moment and we look forward to assisting them in their challenging task next year.

Thanks to this spirit, we succeeded to reach consensus on a large number of documents. Our meeting has provided some of the answers to the questions we face. We have taken decisions to strengthen dialogue on a wide array of issues as divergent as co-operation on energy security, small arms and light weapons, migration management, women's participation in political and public life. We also deliberated and decided that we need to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability. We have also decided to welcome Australia to our extended family, as an Asian Partner for Co-operation, and a special welcome to Ireland which will lead our Organization in 2012.

These achievements should encourage us to sustain the dialogue in other areas as well, where we share a common understanding on what remains to be done, while we still need to identify how to arrive there. The legal status of the OSCE is a case in point, and we hope that the next Chairmanship will follow-up on the work of my Personal Representative, whose report is attached to my statement. We are also looking forward to continuing our engagement in the promotion of the freedom of the Media, one of the most pertinent topics in our societies in the twenty-first century.

Finally, it would be an omission to conclude without expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those who worked tirelessly, both in Athens and in Vienna, to bring us safely to harbour. A special thanks goes out to the OSCE Secretariat, under the able stewardship of the Secretary General, which has assisted us diligently throughout the year.

We are about to hand over the torch to Kazakhstan. From Athens to Astana the journey will be an exciting one. We will move from Mediterranean Europe to Central Asia, traversing the ancient routes of civilization. We wish to our Kazakh friends every success in

their endeavours. We assure them that, as a member of the OSCE Troika in 2010, we will provide all support necessary for a fruitful Chairmanship.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

My final remark is on accountability. We should never forget who we are working for. The “inherent dignity of the individual” is a phrase written in 1975 and continues to resound today. The dignity of the individual is our starting point and our compass. Our decisions and declarations must be meaningful to all citizens and members of society. We must open up our Organization to improve its effectiveness and to make it more receptive to the needs of a new era.

Thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN
(ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)**

(Annex 2 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

The European Union expresses its high appreciation to the Greek Chairmanship for the organization, hospitality and tireless efforts to seek consensus during this Ministerial Council.

Since the last Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki, the EU has engaged constructively and substantively with partners in the dialogue on the future of European security. We warmly welcome the adoption of the “Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process: Reconfirm-Review-Reinvigorate Security and Co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok” and the “Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process”. These important texts signal that the OSCE is ready to take on the challenges to address the real security threats in our common space. The EU believes that this dialogue on European Security has great potential to restore trust and confidence between participating States. We also hope that it will lead to a stronger and revitalized OSCE – an “OSCE Plus” that would benefit us all. The EU is open to the convening of a high-level meeting in the OSCE, provided that it is motivated by substance. We will continue to contribute actively to the dialogue within the Corfu process and look forward to its continuation in 2010.

The EU has taken note of and is ready to study the Russian proposal for a European Security Treaty and other proposals related to European security within the framework of the Corfu Process. Our initial impression is that it encompasses only certain existing OSCE commitments, whereas other are not included. The EU considers that our focus should be on practical action and strengthening existing institutions and commitments.

The EU welcomes the fact that after intense consultations the Ministerial Council has managed to adopt a number of important declarations and decisions in all dimensions of the OSCE.

The EU is pleased that the Council could take a decision on the OSCE Chairmanship for 2012 and passes on its best wishes and support to Ireland in its upcoming preparations.

We also welcome Australia as a new Partner for Co-operation.

The EU particularly values the decisions on energy security, issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, women’s participation in political and public life, hate crimes, Roma and Sinti and the Declarations on Non-Proliferation and on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The EU, however, deeply regrets that consensus could not be reached on all six decisions proposed by the Chairmanship in the human dimension. The EU has promoted relevant decisions on media freedom, rule of law and trafficking in human beings. The

protection and promotion of the freedom of expression is an area where the OSCE and participating States need to enhance their efforts. We need to take urgent measures to respond to the negative developments on media freedom in the OSCE region as well as to attacks against journalists and other human rights defenders. With regard to the decision on hate crimes, the EU continues to insist that “sexual orientation and gender identity” is an integral part of the definition of hate crimes and should explicitly be recognized as such.

The EU fully supports the ongoing reform process in the economic and environmental dimension. The ministerial decision on its future orientation paves the way for further measures to improve the effectiveness, enhance the continuity and strengthen the focus on security aspects in this dimension. The EU will continue to insist that the OSCE should play a role in addressing the security implications of climate change.

We welcome future efforts by the OSCE to address transnational threats, to further enhance police related activities, to reinforce the implementation of the international legal framework to counter terrorism and to increase the standards of travel documents security.

While this has been a very productive Ministerial Council, we would have liked to see progress on the issue of the OSCE legal framework. We would like to thank the Chairmanship for all its efforts on a political declaration and note that we came close to adopting it.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU is pleased that agreement was reached on a Declaration on Nagorno-Karabakh. We are encouraged by the recent high-level discussions between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the remaining outstanding issues and differences. The EU calls upon the leadership of Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue to engage fully in the negotiations towards a solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on an appropriate combination of support for the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as expressed by the EU in its Partnership and Co-operation Agreements and in its Action Plans for these two countries, with other OSCE principles, notably the non-use of force or threat of its use and the equal right of peoples to self-determination.

We regret that consensus was not found on statements regarding the conflicts in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Georgia and the Republic of Moldova within their internationally recognized borders.

We remain fully convinced of the need for a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia and will continue to work actively towards that end. We call upon the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship to continue the work carried out by the Greek Chairmanship to seek consensus on the basis of the present Chairmanship’s Draft Decision.

The EU also remains firmly determined to seek a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and calls for the resumption, as soon as possible and without preconditions, of negotiations in the 5+2 format.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our deep gratitude to the Greek Chairmanship for their diligent efforts in leading this Organization over the last year and congratulate them on the successful outcome of this meeting. We applaud the strong performance of the Chairmanship team, including the Greek delegation in Vienna under the leadership of ambassador Mara Marinaki.

The EU looks forward to a continued close co-operation with Kazakhstan with the aim of achieving a successful Kazakh Chairmanship during 2010. The EU stands ready to lend its full support and wishes Kazakhstan all the best for the coming year.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK (ALSO ON
BEHALF OF ALBANIA, GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, SPAIN,
ESTONIA, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, GREECE, HUNGARY,
ICELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG,
NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,
SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND TURKEY)**

(Annex 3 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Turkey.

Mr. Chairperson,

We place the highest value on the CFE Treaty regime with all its elements. We underscore the strategic importance of the CFE Treaty, including its flank regime, as a cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic security. We reiterate the endorsement by Heads of State and Government at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit on 4 April 2009 of the Statement of the North Atlantic Council of 28 March 2008. We reaffirm the Alliance's commitment to the CFE Treaty regime, as expressed in the Alliance's position contained in paragraph 42 of the 2006 Riga Summit Declaration, the final statement by Allies at the CFE Extraordinary Conference in Vienna, and Alliance statements reflecting subsequent developments.

We are deeply concerned that, since 12 December 2007, Russia has continued its unilateral "suspension" of its legal obligations under the CFE Treaty. Furthermore, Russia's actions in Georgia have called into question its commitment to the fundamental OSCE principles on which stability and security in Europe are based: principles which underpin the CFE Treaty. These actions run counter to our common objective of preserving the long-term viability of the CFE regime and we call upon Russia to resume its implementation without further delay.

We offered a set of constructive and forward looking proposals for parallel actions on key issues, including steps by NATO Allies on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty and by Russia on outstanding commitments related to Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We continue to believe that these proposals address all of Russia's stated concerns. In this context, we take note of the Russian Aide Memoire of 5 May 2009 in which Russia refers to the Parallel Actions Package.

Because of our commitment to co-operative security and fulfilment of international agreements as well as the importance we attach to the confidence that results from military transparency and predictability, we have continued fully to implement the Treaty despite Russia's "suspension". NATO CFE Allies will continue to provide their annual information exchange this year, and we call upon Russia to do the same. However, not taking this

opportunity could make it difficult for us to provide information to Russia in the future. We are prepared for intensified efforts in co-operation with Russia in 2010 to find a way forward on the basis of the Parallel Actions Package so that together we can preserve the benefits of this landmark regime.

Mr. Chairperson,

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this Ministerial Meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

(Annex 4 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation would like to reiterate the importance of rebuilding mutual trust and confidence in the OSCE area in the politico-military dimension.

In this regard, we underline the significant role which the CFE Treaty has played in arms control and in the process of establishing transparency and confidence in Europe.

Ukraine adheres to an opinion of necessity to continue the full implementation of the Treaty in good faith, including its verification measures, information exchange and other Treaty's provisions by all States Parties.

In this regard, my delegation would like to support the statement made by the delegation of Denmark on behalf of the group of states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization concerning the CFE.

To achieve the entry into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty Ukraine is ready to engage in active consultations in the framework of the Joint Consultative Group or in any other fora, which the States Parties would find suitable for that.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

(Annex 5 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The Moldovan delegation shares the position expressed in the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

We also join other delegations in expressing our regret that this Ministerial Council has not been able to adopt the Ministerial Declaration and the Statement on Moldova. Our delegation has worked in a constructive and result-oriented manner to reach consensus on these important documents. I express my hope that through a continued engagement of all participating States we will be able to agree on steps to inspire confidence and energize negotiations on settlement of the conflicts in the OSCE area, the Transnistrian conflict in particular.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to inform distinguished delegations that Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of a group of States with regard to the CFE Treaty.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

(Annex 6 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

We are gratified to note that the Ministerial Declaration on the Corfu Process confirmed the consensus in favour of adopting immediate co-ordinated measures to overcome the deadlock, remove disagreements regarding the control of conventional armaments and restore the viability of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) so as to permit full implementation of the Treaty regime. This is also precisely in line with the intentions of the Russian Federation.

We share the concern about the crisis situation regarding the control of conventional armaments in Europe. Moreover, the basis for this concern did not emerge in 2007, when Russia suspended application of the Treaty, but much earlier, when certain States artificially linked the fate of the CFE Treaty with extraneous questions.

As a result of the refusal of NATO member States to meet the commitment made in Istanbul to ratify the Agreement on Adaption as soon as possible, the viability of the Treaty has been finally lost. It will be possible to restore it and overcome the enduring crisis only through negotiations on the basis of the draft package solution. On 5 May this year the Russian Federation issued an *aide-mémoire* outlining our thoughts on the substantive and qualitative revision of that document.

We hope that our Treaty partners will overcome their passive inertia and finally respond to our urgent invitations to work intensively and systematically on the “package” in the interests of rescuing and restoring the viability of the CFE Treaty regime.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

(Annex 7 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Mr. Chairperson,

Georgia aligns to the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of NATO with regard to the CFE Treaty.

I request this statement to be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.

IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**REPORT ON THE CORFU PROCESS
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF GREECE,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(CIO.GAL/180/09 of 24 November 2009)

1. The Tasking

In the Chairperson's Perception at the conclusion of the Corfu Informal Ministerial Meeting (CIO.GAL/84/09 of 29 June 2009), the Chairperson-in-Office asked the Chairperson of the Permanent Council "to initiate a process, in collaboration with her colleagues from all participating States and reinforced – as necessary – by experts from capitals, who will meet in Vienna to assess the current situation in each of the three dimensions and develop a common understanding of what the priority threats to our wider security really are. They will explore the appropriate framework that may be required for this renewed European security dialogue, with the aim to eventually submit it for approval at the Athens Ministerial Council....This would permit a more focused and structured security dialogue. We have already touched upon some of these items today. In Athens in December, we will review progress on this dialogue and try to proceed accordingly."

2. The Implementation

On the basis of the above mandate, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council initiated consultations with her colleagues, in Vienna, on the topics and the format most appropriate for implementing the tasking from Corfu. In a meeting of the Permanent Representatives on 21 July 2009, it was agreed that the Permanent Representatives would meet on a weekly basis in the format of informal "Corfu meetings" at Ambassadors' level to discuss a wide range of topics in order to determine which elements constituted priority threats to our wider security.

2.1 Following the 21 July meeting, the Chairmanship circulated an Indicative List of Topics and Schedule of Corfu Meetings in the framework of the European Security Dialogue (CIO.GAL/98/09 of 31 July 2009), as follows:

- A. Common Foundations and Commitments in the OSCE area
 - a. Implementation of norms and principles of International Law in the OSCE area
 - b. Co-operative security versus unilateralism
 - c. Different levels of security in the OSCE area

- B. Common Challenges of a politico-military nature
 - a. Arms control and Confidence- and Security-Building Mechanisms/CSBMs arrangements and instruments and their impact on building trust and confidence
 - b. Non-proliferation and illicit arms transfers

- c. Terrorism and risks arising from criminal activities
 - d. Cyber-security
- C. Conflict Resolution in the OSCE area
- a. Peaceful settlement of disputes
 - b. Early Warning and Conflict Prevention including Mediation
 - c. Crisis management
 - d. Post-conflict rehabilitation
 - e. Protracted conflicts in the OSCE area
- D. Common Challenges in the Human Dimension
- a. Human rights and fundamental freedoms
 - b. Democratic institutions and the rule of law
 - c. Tolerance and non-discrimination
 - d. Freedom of the media
 - e. Implementation of commitments in the Human Dimension
- E. Common Challenges related to Economic and Environmental Dimension
- a. Energy security
 - b. Security-related implications of climate change and other environmental challenges
 - c. Security implications of migration
- 2.2 During their informal Corfu meetings in the period from 8 September to 10 November 2009 the Permanent Representatives conducted a transparent, frank and open survey of the above topics, allowing the different perspectives to be presented in a spirit of mutual respect and with genuine willingness to better understand all partners' viewpoints. The informal meetings provided an opportunity to reassess the basic OSCE documents that underpin the concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, thus creating a new positive climate in the OSCE as a whole and enhancing the spirit of shared partnership among the members of the OSCE community. They also proved that the OSCE continues to provide a most suitable framework for a broad dialogue on the current challenges and future prospects of security in the OSCE area, on account of its inclusiveness, legacy and the equal status of its participating States.

The discussions of the Permanent Representatives benefited greatly from the participation of representatives from the capitals, at the discretion of each participating State. The valuable contributions of keynote speakers from the OSCE institutions, the OSCE Secretariat and the academic world should also be highlighted.

At the conclusion of each informal meeting, the Chairmanship presented to all delegations a Chairperson's Perception Paper aimed at encapsulating the main thrust of the discussion and identifying the issues that need to be taken forward in the next phase of the Corfu Process. The seven Chairperson's Perceptions Papers issued are attached herewith in the Annex and form an integral part of this report.

2.3 The discussions indicated the need for further work at two levels:

- (i) To address both the resolution of existing and emerging problems of security in Europe and also the security of Europe, and more specifically:
 - To promote the peaceful settlement of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, on the basis of international law and the Helsinki Final Act;
 - To restore the conventional arms control regime with a special focus on the need to save the CFE regime through the prompt entry into force of the 1999 Agreement on Adaptation (A/CFE) and the enhancement of the confidence- and security-building measures;
 - To promote the building of open and democratic societies based on the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, with full respect for the human rights of all, including persons belonging to national minorities;
 - To commonly address new security threats and challenges of multidimensional nature, including those deriving from the economic and environmental dimension.

The participating States agreed that the existing framework of norms, principles and commitments enshrined in the OSCE's documents and decisions (the OSCE *acquis*) were adequate and sufficient for the addressing of the above-mentioned security problems. However, it was pointed out that confidence and trust among partners had declined over the past years, mainly on account of the selective or partial implementation of this *acquis*, usually associated to differing interpretations of its relevant commitments. Therefore, implementation of existing commitments by all and in good faith was deemed of crucial importance for the resolution of existing problems and for the consolidation of the partners' solidarity in addressing new security threats and challenges deriving from outside the OSCE area, including Afghanistan.

The Corfu discussions also indicated the multidimensional, horizontal nature of the vast majority of existing and emerging security threats and challenges, and the need to strive for comprehensive responses.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the term "European Security" refers to the whole OSCE area "from Vancouver to Vladivostok" and covers the whole Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

- (ii) To strengthen the OSCE's capabilities for addressing in a more efficient and prompt manner the security needs of its participating States. In this regard, the following areas for further work were identified:
 - The extensive OSCE toolbox in conflict prevention and crisis management has not been put into full use in an effective way, as proven by the Georgian crisis of August 2008. Though partners indicated that the use of the toolbox to its full capacity depended on the political will of the participating States to activate it, the need to re-examine and, possibly, strengthen it was widely recognized;

- The enhancement of the OSCE's effectiveness is important in order to strengthen the overall performance of the OSCE as the largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. In this regard, more focused work should be undertaken, notably in accordance with (but not limited to) the recommendations of the 2005 Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons;
- The full potential of the OSCE instruments has not been exhausted. The 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security is one example. It would be beneficial for the OSCE to examine ways to make best use of its existing instruments;
- Ways to enhance the implementation of existing commitments in all three dimensions in practice should be further examined.

The above areas constitute the daily work of the OSCE. However, these areas of high importance for the future of our Organization should be addressed by all OSCE bodies, formal and informal, in a more focused, holistic and co-ordinated way.

2.4 On the basis of a Food-for-Thought Paper of the Chairmanship (CIO.GAL/162/09 of 28 October 2009), the Permanent Representatives had the opportunity to discuss the future of the Corfu Process after the Athens Ministerial Council, during the Ambassadors' Retreat at Krems (30 and 31 October 2009). The Chairmanship summed up the main points of the Krems exchange of views (CIO.GAL/166/09 of 2 November 2009) as follows:

- Emerging consensus on the value of the Corfu Process and the need to continue it in the next year and beyond;
- Unanimous praise was given to the value of continuing the informal Corfu meetings at Ambassadors' level, at regular intervals, due to the need for extensive preparation, while also keeping the momentum of the Dialogue. The need to engage more experts in Vienna and from the capitals was also pointed out. Without aiming at proliferation of the existing structures, it would be advisable to organize our work with a combination of them in a cross-dimensional way;
- On the topic of an open-ended strategic dialogue with defined tasks, consensus was emerging on the major themes, namely: conflict prevention and conflict resolution, arms control and confidence and security-building measures, new security challenges and transnational and trans-border challenges in Central Asia including Afghanistan, and strengthening the implementation of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
- In this vein, there seemed to be both consensus in favour of a Ministerial Declaration on the Corfu Process in order to voice out a strong political message in a way that would be easily understandable, and also widespread support for the Chairmanship's proposal to elaborate a Ministerial Decision in order to better structure the continuation of the Corfu Process dialogue in Vienna.

3. Conclusion

All the participating States engaged actively and constructively in the first phase of the Corfu Process “From Corfu to Athens” and we consider, in the name of the Greek Chairmanship, that our tasking from Corfu has been accomplished.

Now, it is up to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens to define and agree on the future course of the Corfu Process, striving for a “Helsinki Plus” for European security and an “OSCE Plus” for the Organization itself.

Annex: List of documents

1. CIO.GAL/84/09 of 29 June 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Corfu Informal Ministerial Meeting
2. CIO.GAL/98/09 of 31 July 2009	Chairmanship’s Indicative List of Topics and Schedule of Corfu Meetings in the framework of the European Security Dialogue
3. CIO.GAL/114/09 of 9 September 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Implementation of norms and principles of international law in the OSCE area
4. CIO.GAL/124/09 of 16 September 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Co-operative Security versus Unilateralism – Different Levels of Security in the OSCE Area
5. CIO.GAL/133/09 of 25 September 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Arms control and CSBMs arrangements and instruments, and their impact on building trust and confidence
6. CIO.GAL/147/09 of 15 October 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Non-proliferation and illicit arms transfers, terrorism and risks arising from criminal activities and cyber-security
7. CIO.GAL/156/09 of 23 October 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Conflict Resolution in the OSCE Area
8. CIO.GAL/161/09 of 28 October 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Common Challenges in the Human Dimension
9. CIO.GAL/162/09 of 28 October 2009	Food-for-Thought Paper: Sailing to Athens: the Future of the Corfu Process
10. CIO.GAL/166/09 of 2 November 2009	Ambassadors’ Retreat: Concluding Remarks by Ambassador Marinaki
11. CIO.GAL/176/09 of 11 November 2009	Chairperson’s Perception: Common Challenges in the Economic and Environmental Dimension

**REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEK
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE**

(Attachment to MC.DEL/73/09 of 4 December 2009)

Mandate

Pursuant to Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/08, adopted at Helsinki on 5 December 2008, entitled “Strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE”, the Greek Chairman-in-Office was tasked, in consultation with the participating States, with pursuing a dialogue on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE and reporting to the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens in 2009.

Background

Discussions on the question of the legal personality of the OSCE date back to 1993, when the participating States sought ways of addressing legal and practical problems caused by the absence of a uniform legal framework for the OSCE.

After efforts had been made to establish a system by which States would unilaterally grant privileges and immunities to the OSCE, discussions were initiated in order to consider the possibility of adopting a multilateral convention that would embody common provisions regulating questions of international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. In 2001, OSCE legal experts met in an open-ended working group on OSCE legal capacity and drafted the text of a convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE.

The issue was taken up again in 2006, when an open-ended working group was tasked with finalizing a draft convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. On 22 October 2007, the chairperson of the working group submitted to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council a final text of a draft convention. It should be noted that two delegations had requested the inclusion of three footnotes in the draft, making reference to a charter.

On 30 November 2007, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. M. A. Moratinos, in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, said in his concluding statement at the Madrid meeting of the Ministerial Council that there had been no agreement on how to solve the problem of recognition of the OSCE’s legal personality in the international sphere, and annexed the text produced by the working group to his statement for reference.

The need for the OSCE to possess a charter has been referred to on various other occasions, most recently through the attachment to Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/08 of an interpretative statement confirming the position of a number of participating States that a charter of the OSCE and a convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE should be adopted simultaneously.

The Personal Representative

The Greek Chairmanship assumed this task with full knowledge of the difficulties inherent in it, as it was clear that the participating States, while generally agreeing on the need to enhance the legal status of the OSCE, held different views as to how this should best be achieved.

To this effect, the Greek Chairmanship considered that the appointment of a personal representative would enable the Chairmanship to gain a comprehensive view of the question in its current status, while at the same time facilitating a fruitful dialogue between the participating States.

As a consequence, on 10 March 2009, Mrs. Zinovia Stavridi was appointed by the Chairperson-in-Office as Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Strengthening of the Legal Framework of the OSCE during the Greek OSCE Chairmanship in 2009.

In the context of its mandate, the Greek Chairmanship, together with the Personal Representative, held a series of informal meetings and consultations in Vienna, with a view to establishing a mechanism of open dialogue that would enable the participating States to examine together ways of moving forward on the issue of the legal framework of the OSCE.

For this purpose, the Greek Chairmanship also took into account the activities that had been undertaken in this respect by the Finnish Chairmanship.

Meetings held

The Greek Chairmanship held a first informal meeting with the participating States on 13 May 2009.

This meeting afforded the Chairmanship an opportunity to confirm that the participating States wished to keep open the dialogue on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE and that the text of the convention, as finalized in 2007, continued to enjoy general support.

During this meeting, different views were expressed regarding the way ahead:

- A number of participating States proposed the establishment of a working group tasked with the elaboration of a charter, as well as the convening of a round-table meeting on legal personality, along the lines proposed by the Finnish Chairmanship in October 2008;
- Some other participating States, while agreeing with the idea of a round-table meeting, noted that such a meeting should not limit itself to reviewing the existing situation, but should also endeavour to identify commonly agreed ways of moving forward;
- Reference was also made to the draft charter that had been introduced by a number of participating States in 2007 (PC.DEL/897/07). It was pointed out by the authors of the text that no comments had as yet been received by other participating States.

The Personal Representative considered that the participating States seemed generally in favour of holding a round-table meeting on the legal framework of the OSCE. Consequently, the participating States were invited to participate in the round table and to present their legal and technical arguments on the necessity or otherwise for the OSCE to possess a constitutive document, so that a substantive discussion could take place on ways of moving forward.

Three meetings of an informal round table on the legal status of the OSCE were held.

(a) The first meeting took place on 17 June.

During this first meeting, the Legal Services presented examples from the day-to-day practice of the OSCE that pointed up the importance for the OSCE of possessing international personality, as well as the appropriate privileges and immunities.

The participating States that considered the adoption of a constitutive document as a prerequisite for the adoption of the convention presented a number of arguments to this end.

In this respect, reference was made to the recommendations issued in 2005 by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE.

Other arguments were also presented, in particular that the OSCE, without a constitutive document, would remain a provisional arrangement, while a charter would regulate issues that could not be accommodated in the text of a convention on privileges and immunities, such as the purposes of an international organization, its competences, its organizational structure and institutions, procedures for the admittance and withdrawal of members, financial issues and decision-making mechanisms.

These participating States pointed out that such a constitutive document should not affect the political commitments of the OSCE.

The participating States that considered the adoption of a charter as a prerequisite for the adoption of the convention on legal personality proposed the establishment of a working group by a decision of the Permanent Council or the Ministerial Council, to function under the auspices of the Permanent Council (i.e., a PC working group), with the mandate to elaborate a constitutive document, not necessarily based on the draft charter presented in 2007 (see above).

Other participating States reacted to the arguments put forward on the need for the OSCE to possess a charter by stressing that there was no rule in international law according to which an international organization should in all cases possess a charter.

In the context of the idea of a charter, arguments were put forward in favour of a short text that would be limited to mentioning the organs of the OSCE and would in no way lead to a re-examination of the political commitments of the OSCE.

On the other hand, it was pointed out by other delegations that the adoption of a constitutive document, and consequently a choosing among commitments, could lead to the creation of two classes of OSCE commitments.

The idea of establishing an informal working group on the elaboration of a charter garnered some support, but a number of participating States did not seem to share the view that the adoption of a charter was a prerequisite for the adoption of the convention. On the contrary, those States supported the idea of the adoption of the draft convention as soon as possible, and more particularly in Athens.

The first meeting of the informal round table proved to be a valuable occasion for identifying the differing positions of the participating States regarding ways of strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE. The discussions were useful and the Personal Representative called on the participating States to examine the ideas put forward and to meet again in September.

(b) The second informal round-table meeting on the legal status of the OSCE took place on 17 September.

With a view to the meeting, the Greek Chairmanship had distributed two documents in advance: One prepared by the OSCE Secretariat's Legal Services, containing information on international organizations not established by international treaty (CIO.GAL/91/09) and a non-paper prepared by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, on the legal status and privileges and immunities of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/115/09), based on previously released documents.

The Swedish Presidency of the European Union made a statement on behalf of the member States of the EU, stressing that it was urgent to adopt the convention, after deleting the footnotes, if possible in Athens. If that was not feasible, the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE could be tasked with continuing the efforts to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE. Finally, it was recalled that the European Union saw merit in devising a statute or charter for the OSCE, as long as it did not reopen existing commitments, and it would be willing to continue discussions on such a statute or charter.

One participating State proposed the establishment of an informal working group on the legal status of the OSCE that would enable the participating States to engage in an exchange of views, to be followed by elaboration of the various positions, with the aim of reaching concrete results.

This proposal garnered the support of a number of participating States.

Concluding the meeting, the Personal Representative noted that the draft convention enjoyed the general support of the participating States, and invited them to endorse the text of the convention in order to ensure that the discussion on its content would not be reopened.

The Personal Representative retained the idea of the establishment of an informal working group, recalling that a proposal for the establishment of a working group had already been put forward by other participating States at the previous meeting.

She also noted the intention of the Chairmanship to convene a last meeting of the informal round table in November, and called on the participating States to demonstrate a constructive spirit based on the new elements presented during the meeting, bearing in mind that the unimpeded functioning of the OSCE needed to be ensured.

Finally, she added that, pursuant to her mandate and to Helsinki Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/08, in her capacity as Personal Representative, she would submit her report to the Chairman-in-Office.

- (c) The last meeting of the informal round table was convened by the Greek Chairmanship on 11 November.

Pursuant to the discussions at the previous round-table meeting, on 10 November, the Chairmanship distributed an addendum (CIO.GAL/91/09/Add.1) to the information note on international organizations not established by international treaty, which had been circulated as CIO.GAL/91/09 on 8 July 2009.

Summarizing the various positions that seemed to have emerged from the discussions, the Personal Representative made the following remarks:

- The participating States appeared to agree that the OSCE needed a convention on legal personality and privileges and immunities, and that the text elaborated in 2007 continued to enjoy general support;
- A number of States considered that the convention could not resolve fundamental issues of the functioning of the OSCE, which could be addressed only through the adoption of a charter. These States considered that the charter must be adopted together with the convention;
- A number of States, while not rejecting the idea of the OSCE acquiring a constitutive document, did not consider that this document constituted a prerequisite for the adoption of the convention. Nevertheless, these States could envisage the idea of continuing discussions on the possible elaboration of a constitutive document, provided that this document did not affect the political commitments of the OSCE;
- Some States remained sceptical about the idea of a constitutive document, considering that the elaboration of such a document might prove problematic in view of the fact that the participating States would have to make a choice as to which commitments should be included in the constitutive document and which should not, possibly leading to the creation of two classes of OSCE commitments.

Concluding remarks

The discussions revealed that:

- (a) The text of the Convention, as finalized in 2007, continues to enjoy general support among the participating States;
- (b) The next Chairmanship should continue the dialogue in order to identify possible ways of addressing the concerns of the participating States, as expressed during the discussions;
- (c) The proposal for the establishment of an informal working group which would further examine the legal status of the OSCE was retained by the participating States.

On the basis of these elements, the Personal Representative proposed, at the last meeting of the informal round table, that the work undertaken during the round-table meetings, as well as the willingness of the participating States to pursue dialogue, could be reflected in the text of a draft decision, to be presented for adoption by the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens on 1 and 2 December 2009.

Relevant consultations were held and a draft decision was circulated by the Greek Chairmanship on 12 November (MC.DD/15/09), based mainly on the understanding that the text of the articles of the draft convention had remained uncontested by the participating States since 2007.

Extensive consultations and informal discussions with the most interested delegations took place in Vienna during the preparatory phase of the Ministerial Council meeting, and these were reflected in a new version of the draft decision, issued as MC.DD/15/09/Rev.2, of 24 November 2009.

This revised version was discussed three times in the Preparatory Committee meetings that were held in Athens, and further informal consultations took place. Despite all efforts to accommodate the different positions, the Chairmanship finally withdrew the draft decision during the last meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 1 December 2009, since not all the participating States were ready to join a consensus on its text.

Athens, 1 December 2009

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL ON THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**
(CIO.GAL/6/09 of 11 November 2009)

Executive summary

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the period from November 2008 to November 2009¹.

The FSC took a SALW decision on:

- Reviewing the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions.

The FSC conducted an intensive meeting to review the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions in September 2009. It resulted in a wide range of concrete proposals for further improving the document across both a wide range of normative and implementation issues, and in line with the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects. The meeting was the start of a process that will require participating States to make detailed proposals to improve the OSCE Document's norms and measures.

The level of implementation of SALW information exchanges was at a significantly lower level than in previous years, and required the FSC Chairperson to make extensive use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism.

One-off information exchanges were conducted on sample formats of end-user certificates, and the practices related to preventing the spread of SALW by air.

The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects is a key component in the improvement of security and stability in the OSCE region.

The report notes the successful completion of projects in the Republics of Tajikistan and Cyprus, and describes the ongoing project in the Republic of Belarus and the development of a project in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The OSCE and the UNDP finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) negotiations on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects.

Participating States pledged 433,918 euros for OSCE SALW projects, a reduction on previous years.

¹ The deadline for submitting inputs for this report was 6 November 2009.

Following an OSCE initiative, regular informal meetings have been arranged with other international organizations to enhance the co-ordination of efforts with regard to SALW projects.

1. Introduction

At the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (MC.DEC/11/08).

The OSCE Document on SALW was adopted on 24 November 2000 and distributed under the reference FSC.DOC/1/00. It sets forth norms, principles and measures to address the threat posed to the international community by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW. This was acknowledged by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which regards the OSCE Document on SALW as an important tool for combating threats caused by terrorism and organized crime, and underlines the importance of further strengthening its implementation. In accordance with Section VI, paragraph 2, of the Document, a review of the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW is regularly undertaken during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings.

The OSCE Document on SALW also makes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN Programme of Action on SALW).

2. Objectives

This report aims to provide an overview of the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW and also describes the progress on implementation of OSCE-related SALW assistance projects. It is primarily designed to serve as a basis for determining the status of implementation of the OSCE commitments on SALW and to highlight the most challenging issues to be addressed in the future. The report covers the period from November 2008 until November 2009.

3. OSCE SALW Review Meeting

In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08, the Forum organized a meeting to review the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions on 22 and 23 September 2009. The meeting brought together representatives of OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Over two days, the participants discussed issues related to international assistance and co-operation, including OSCE assistance projects; export controls and brokering; stockpile management and security; and marking and tracing of SALW. The meeting underlined the need for the following issues:

- Full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW;

- Update of the SALW assistance mechanism;
- Recognition of increased need for international co-operation;
- Common understanding of the language and terminology;
- More effective information exchange;
- Effective verification measures in export controls;
- Measures to prevent diversion and technology transfer;
- Making some elements of the Best Practice Guide (BPG) politically binding;
- Sharing lessons learned.

Moreover, several delegations called for the development of a plan of action on SALW in order to ensure proper follow-up.

The FSC Chairperson's summary report of the meeting is available at FSC.GAL/109/09.

4. Normative aspects

The OSCE Document on SALW refers mainly to the norm-setting base and establishes an OSCE framework for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) constitute a core issue of the FSC's regular work. The work in 2009 centred around the following issue:

4.1 Updating FSC Decision No. 15/02 on expert advice on implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW

The Permanent Council requested FSC expert advice in 2002 in order to implement Section V "Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation" of the OSCE Document on SALW.

In response, the FSC adopted Decision No. 15/02 on expert advice on implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW, and this outlined the procedure for providing assistance to OSCE participating States.

Following discussions at the meeting to review the OSCE Document on SALW, and to help participating States to use the very powerful assistance capacity within the OSCE, the Forum is discussing a proposal for an FSC draft decision in order to bring the SALW procedures into greater conformity with the stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) procedures and enhance the assistance mechanism. The proposal updates the mechanism of requesting and providing assistance on SALW and brings it into greater conformity with the

assistance mechanism for SCA. Secondly, the proposal includes questionnaires that could be submitted by the requesting and donor States, thus enhancing the procedure for requesting or providing assistance.

5. Implementation of existing commitments

5.1 Information exchanges on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards, which, if fully implemented, will assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Among others, the OSCE Document established a mechanism of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security as well as further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States exchange annual and one-off information on various aspects related to transfer controls of SALW and conventional arms more generally. These information exchanges are confidential between the OSCE participating States, and are regularly discussed at FSC meetings, special seminars and conferences. The general level of implementation in 2009 was significantly lower, and less compliant in timing, than in previous years. The FSC Chairperson's Announcing and Reminding Mechanism was extensively employed.

OSCE information exchanges relevant to SALW transfer controls include:

- Information exchange on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97 and FSC.DEC/8/98);
- Questionnaire on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/20/95);
- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/1/00, III(F)1).

In addition, the participating States have agreed to provide each other with updates, as follows, when necessary:

- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, II(D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, II(D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/1/00, III(F)2).

5.1.1 One-off information exchanges

Under the OSCE Document on SALW, the participating States agreed to share and submit updated information, when necessary, on national marking systems; national

procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, and control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes.

In addition, FSC Decision No. 5/04 set out standard elements for end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports. In order to assess the implementation of the decision and in line with the principles set forth in the OSCE Document on SALW, the FSC adopted Decision No. 12/08 by which participating States committed themselves to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents to all other participating States and the CPC by 27 March 2009. By 6 November 2009, 48 participating States provided such sample end-user certificates. Of those, 2 participating States provided nil reports. In July 2009, the Conflict Prevention Centre transmitted the sample end-user certificates to the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP) that conducted an overview and presented the results of the overview at the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions on 22 and 23 September.

Next, FSC Decision No. 11/08 tasked participating States to exchange information on a one-off basis on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport. By 6 November 2009, 37 participating States provided national responses on the questionnaire.

Detailed information about the number of participating States that exchanged one-off information can be found in Annex A.

5.1.2 Annual information exchanges

In addition to exchanging information about existing norms and regulations, the OSCE Document commits the participating States to exchanging data annually on exports to, and imports from, other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories in the previous calendar year. An overview of this information exchange is displayed in Annex B.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2008, OSCE participating States destroyed 8,583,577 pieces of SALW. Details are in Annex C.

5.2 Awareness raising

In 2009, the Informal Group of Friends on SALW continued to assist the FSC Chairmanship on matters related to the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, as well as of FSC decisions related to SALW. In particular, the chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW assisted the FSC Chairperson in organizing the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions. Several presentations on SALW were given as part of the FSC's Security Dialogue. Furthermore, the OSCE organized a number of training events and workshops. An overview of these activities as well as other activities related to the promotion of OSCE SALW initiatives is attached as Annex D.

6. Practical assistance on SALW

6.1 Overview

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW which deal with requests for assistance from participating States to tackle the issues of destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remains an essential part of the efforts of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this field.

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 29 requests for assistance from 14 countries relating to enhancement of the management and security of stockpiles of SALW and of conventional ammunition, including melange, or destruction of surpluses of them. The requests from participating States for assistance in tackling the issues of destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remain an essential part of the FSC's efforts in this field. In particular, assistance projects in Belarus, Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan can be seen as examples of these activities in 2008–2009.

6.2 National co-ordination bodies

In 2008, the FSC adopted Decision No. 4/08 establishing an OSCE Directory of Points of Contact (POC) on SALW and SCA as an additional tool for co-operation and co-ordination among the participating States on assistance projects relating to SALW and SCA. In line with the decision, the CPC has established and maintained an aggregate database of POC provided by OSCE participating States and other parties to the directory. During 2009 the CPC provided updated information on projects on SALW and SCA via the Directory of POC.

6.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW that encouraged regional organizations to co-operate, develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UNDP. An MoU was signed by the two organizations in June 2006 and is designed to provide a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and conventional ammunition projects. Two joint projects were launched in the framework of the MoU in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007.

In May 2008, the MoU was extended for two years until June 2010. In spring 2009, both organizations finalized the negotiations on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects.

6.4 Assistance projects

6.4.1 Republic of Belarus

Based on the MoU between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the OSCE and the UNDP started the implementation of two joint projects, in Montenegro and Belarus. The joint project on capacity-building for SALW in Belarus dealt with SALW stockpile management and security. The first phase of the programme aiming at enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Defence of Belarus to safely guard SALW at four storage sites is scheduled to be

completed by the end of December 2009. For a more detailed description of the OSCE-UNDP Capacity Building Programme on SALW in Belarus, see Annex F.

6.4.2 Republic of Cyprus

In October 2008, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus made a specific request for OSCE assistance in the destruction of 324 MANPADS and associated 101 grip stocks. The scope of the task has been defined in more detail in the Republic of Cyprus's answers to the OSCE questionnaire. Five participating States submitted national proposals to the CPC for collation and submission to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE. Having studied the executive summary, the MoD of Cyprus decided to proceed along with the proposals put forward by the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The destruction programme for the missiles was based on open-pit detonation. Following the preparation stage starting in March 2009, the disposal took place from 9 to 20 June 2009 and was monitored by international observers from participating States. The destruction certificate has been provided to the OSCE upon the completion of the destruction programme. For a more detailed description of the MANPADS destruction project in Cyprus, see Annex G.

6.4.3 Kyrgyz Republic

In February 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic submitted a request for assistance to the FSC for enhancing stockpile management and security of SALW and conventional ammunition in the southern part of the country, where an increase in the activity of radical extremist groups is putting the current storage facilities at risk. In July 2008, the request was substantiated by the questionnaire that provided detailed information about the type of assistance requested. The CPC conducted an assessment visit to the country from 10 to 14 November 2008, with the participation of independent experts and representatives of participating States. In consultation with the Kyrgyz authorities and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, a project plan is being developed by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Conflict Prevention Centre to provide the necessary budgetary assistance.

6.4.4 Republic of Tajikistan

In spring 2009, the OSCE Centre in Tajikistan finalized the Comprehensive Programme on SALW and Conventional Ammunition in Tajikistan. The implementation of this two-phase Programme extended over the period 2005 to 2009. Phase I of the Programme was designed to tackle problems of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition as well as safe and secure stockpile management of the national holdings of the remaining SALW and ammunition in Dushanbe and its vicinity. Following the successful completion of Phase I in November 2006, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe started the implementation of Phase II, extending the scope of action from the capital to all the regions of the country, including the Tajik-Afghan border. Phase II of the Programme was designed to increase regional stability, SALW control and the anti-drug-trafficking capabilities of the law enforcement authorities throughout the territory of Tajikistan.

Phase II consisted of five tasks, of which Tasks III and V primarily deal with the physical security of stockpiles of SALW. For a more detailed description of the OSCE Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan, see Annex H.

6.5 Funding

Information on donors' assistance shows that, in 2009, 433,918 euros was pledged for SALW projects, a reduction on previous years. The OSCE participating States donated a total of just over 3.4 million euros for SALW projects from 2005 to November 2009. An overview is attached as Annex I. The Comprehensive SALW and SCA Programme continues to provide a flexible, fast and supportive mechanism for donor States to contribute funds to SALW and SCA projects.

7. Outreach and co-operation

7.1 Operational support and information exchange

The OSCE Secretariat organizes annual staff talks with the UN. Information about the latest initiatives, both norm-setting and by way of practical assistance on SALW, is shared between the two organizations.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO. Issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and conventional ammunition are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to share information, avoid possible duplication of effort, establish possible synergies and increase the effectiveness of projects.

Finally, the OSCE Secretariat holds biannual staff talks with the EU to exchange information and discuss a wide range of issues.

The OSCE exchanges information on OSCE project activities as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA with other international organizations. Following the OSCE's initiative on 27 November 2008, a one-day informal meeting was organized in Vienna with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on SALW and SCA. The first of its kind, the purpose of the meeting was (1) to take stock of SALW and SCA projects which are implemented by the international organizations, and (2) to discuss the OSCE proposal to start organizing such co-ordination meetings on a regular basis. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the proposal put forward by the OSCE to conduct informal co-ordination meetings on a regular basis. The idea was supported by all the representatives of the international organizations. The following general modalities for such meetings were agreed upon:

- One-day informal co-ordination meetings will be held twice a year;
- The next informal co-ordination meeting will be hosted and chaired by NATO in six months time;
- When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

The second meeting of the co-ordination initiative was held on NATO premises in July 2009. It is expected that the following meeting will be hosted by SEESAC in Belgrade.

7.2 Information brochure and documentary film

In order to raise awareness and promote FSC assistance projects on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, the FSC Support Section has published an information brochure about the projects. Also, an update of the ten-minute documentary film describing recent projects on SALW and conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel component melange, has been produced in English and Russian. It is planned to present the updated film on FSC assistance projects at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Normative Work on SALW

The implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW continues to play an important role as a norm-setting document in the OSCE area. A proposal for an update of FSC Decision No. 15/02 was the one substantive issue addressed in the FSC in 2009. Significant effort was made to implement Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 through a meeting held to review the SALW Document. The review meeting revealed a number of potential gaps in the OSCE commitments and led to a wide range of concrete proposals being made for its further improvement. This indicated that the OSCE should consider updating the OSCE SALW Document if it intends to stay at the forefront of international efforts on fighting illicit SALW. In 2009 the level of implementation of the regular OSCE Document information exchanges was significantly below that achieved in previous years.

8.2 Practical assistance on SALW

A key OSCE activity has remained the practical implementation of the OSCE Document through measures to respond to participating States' requests for assistance. Two projects have been successfully completed (Tajikistan and Cyprus), one remains in progress (Belarus) and one project plan is in the final stages of development (Kyrgyzstan). Funds pledged by donors in 2009 are at the lowest level for 5 years, but a significant requirement continues to exist for current and potential future projects. The OSCE and the UNDP finalized the MoU negotiations on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects. Steps continue to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of SALW activity through regular regional co-operation and informal co-ordination with other international organizations.

9. Annexes

- Annex A: Overview of one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW
- Annex B: Overview of annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed
- Annex C: SALW destruction in the OSCE area

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from December 2008 to November 2009

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

Annex F: OSCE-UNDP Capacity Building Programme on SALW in Belarus

Annex G: Destruction of MANPADS in Cyprus

Annex H: OSCE Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan

Annex I: Donors to SALW projects

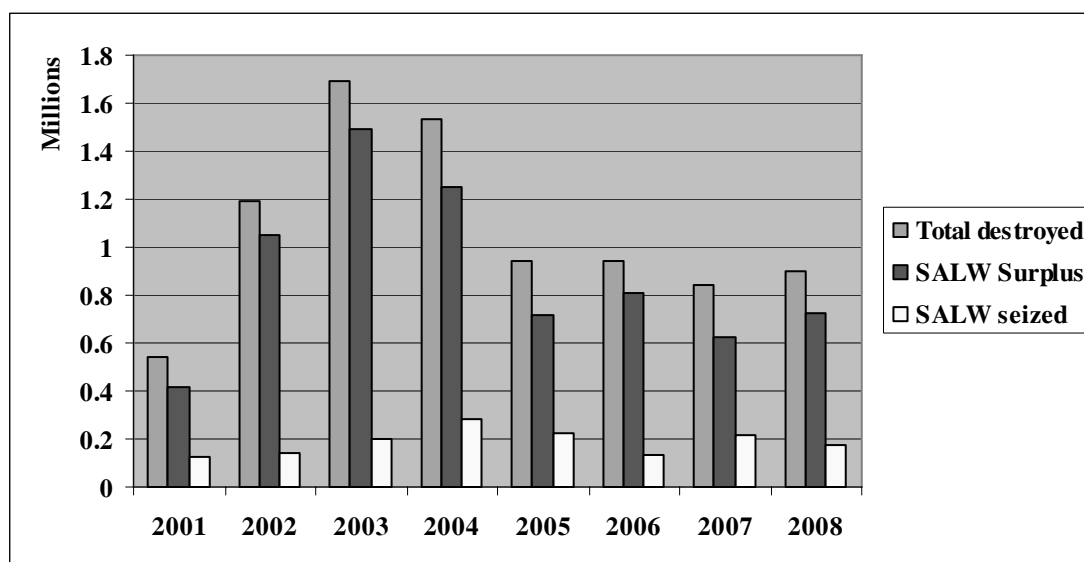
Annex A: Overview of one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW

Reference (paragraph)	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Current status	
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2009
Section II(D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms, as well as on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of such arms.	53 participating States	6 participating States
Section III(F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	52 participating States	5 participating States
Section IV(E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	52 participating States	3 participating States
Section IV(E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	51 participating States	2 participating States

Annex B: Overview of annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed

Reference (paragraph)	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status by 2009	
		2008	2009
Section III(F)1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	46 participating States	43 participating States
Section IV(C)1 Section IV(E)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction. The participating States agree to share available information on the category, sub-category and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories during the previous calendar year.	35 participating States	33 participating States

Annex C: SALW destruction in the OSCE Area²



2 It should be noted that, in cases where a participating State has not differentiated between surplus and seized weapons, the statistics are reflected as surplus.

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from December 2008 to November 2009

OSCE Meeting to Review the Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions

For more information, please see Section 3.

Other events

Presentations related to SALW in the context of the Security Dialogue of the FSC

FSC Chairpersons regularly invite guest speakers to address the Forum, also on issues related to SALW. In 2009, presentation topics related to SALW included the following briefings:

- Presentation by Mr. Peter Croll, Director of the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), on the Conversion and Security Reform in Transition Countries and Post-Conflict Settings – Experiences of the Bonn International Center for Conversion;
- Presentation by Ms. E. Kirkham, Saferworld, on Preventing Diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons: Issues and Priorities for Strengthened Controls.

Exhibition at the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki

On the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki in December 2008, the FSC Support Section presented photo exhibitions reflecting FSC assistance projects on SALW and conventional ammunition. The exhibition displayed different stages of project assessments and implementation in countries in which assistance was provided, including Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

The OSCE continued active external co-ordination and co-operation with other regional and international organizations and civil society, including participation in events organized by other actors.

In 2009, representatives of the CPC continued to promote OSCE's outreach activities by participating in events organized by other international and regional organizations. Seminars and workshops at which presentations were given are listed below.

OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2009		
Date	Title	Place
5 and 6 May	RASR Workshop on SALW	Zagreb
1 and 2 July	NATO Workshop on SALW Brokering	Brussels

OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2009		
Date	Title	Place
3 July	Co-ordination Meeting with Other International Organizations on SALW and SCA Projects	Brussels
15 and 16 July	Workshop to Launch the Drafting Phase of the ISACS Project	Geneva
5 and 6 October	Workshop on the Potential Activities to be Financed under the Instrument for Stability in the Area of Prevention, Combat and Control of the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons	Brussels
3 and 5 November	South East Europe Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) of Conventional Weapons and Munitions	Budva

Annex F: OSCE-UNDP Capacity Building Programme on SALW in Belarus

The OSCE and the Government of Belarus agreed that the UNDP would be the implementing agency for the pilot phase of the project to be implemented from 2007 to 2009 with a total budget of about 600,000 US dollars, focusing on four out of 16 SALW storage sites.

A donors' visit was organized from 16 to 21 November 2008 in order to revisit the implementation plan for Phases II and III. Along with representatives of the CPC and the OSCE Office in Minsk, officials from the United Kingdom, Norway, Spain and Sweden participated in the visit. The donors had the opportunity to observe the destruction of fifteen man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) at one of the destruction sites of the Ministry of Defence in Minsk, visit two sites of Phase I and three potential sites of Phase II, discuss the status of the implementation of Phase I as well as prospects for the implementation of Phase II of the Programme. With regard to the implementation of Phase I, it was agreed to postpone the final delivery date until end of December 2009 due to complexities associated with the tender procedure. It was also decided to authorize the use of the planned savings of 330,000 US dollars for Phase II. As regards the planning for Phase II, it was decided to launch Phase II concurrently with the completion of Phase I at two sites in Polotsk and Borovka in order to ensure continuity. Finally, it was decided to re-evaluate the works to be conducted at ten other sites that require enhancements to safety and security.

The Programme Manager from the UNDP Office in Minsk held regularly briefings to donors and other interested delegations in order to report about progress in implementation of the Programme. Particularly, the UNDP Office in Minsk presented the project during the side event organized in the margins of the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions on 22 September and participated in the additional briefing organized for donors on 23 September.

The following contributions have been officially pledged by OSCE participating States to support the OSCE-UNDP project on SALW in Belarus:

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
Phase I	
Belgium	55,331
Norway	309,006
Spain (directly to the UNDP)	100,000
Sweden (directly to the UNDP)	524,846
United Kingdom (directly to the UNDP)	145,000
Total Phase I:	1,134,183
Phase II	
Finland	80,000
France	15,000
Greece	30,000
Norway	208,918
Spain	100,000
Total Phase II:	433,918
TOTAL:	1,568,101

Annex G: Destruction of MANPADS in Cyprus

At the 36th joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council on 29 October 2008, the Defence Minister of the Republic of Cyprus made a formal request to the OSCE for technical assistance with the destruction of quantity 324 9M32M (STRELA-2M) MANPADS and associated 101 grip stocks. Subsequently five participating States submitted national proposals to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) for collation and submission to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to assist the Cyprus authorities in taking an informed decision for the disposal of MANPADS in an effective and efficient manner in compliance with internationally recognized standards and national requirements. Having studied the executive summary prepared by the CPC, the Ministry of Defence of Cyprus decided to proceed along with UK and US proposals. Further assessment, project development and implementation was conducted under the OSCE flagship with the CPC co-ordinating these activities with the Cypriot authorities, experts from the United Kingdom and the United States and the FSC based on the CPC Report on Assessment/Project Development Visit to Republic of Cyprus on MANPADS Disposal from 10 to 12 March 2009 (FSC.GAL/41/09). The main disposal activities based on the implementation plan contained in the above-mentioned report took place from 9 to 12 June 2009.

The destruction programme for the missiles was based on open-pit, electrically initiated detonation using block TNT in individual sequence. The grip stocks (launching mechanisms) were destroyed at a specialized workshop using a crushing method to reduce the amount of explosive required and refuse produced. The batteries were destroyed by immersion in water, and the residue subject to appropriate waste disposal procedures. All technical means, equipment, materials and logistics were provided by the Cypriot Ministry of Defence (MoD).

All identification and manufacture markings of MANPADS and grip stocks were recorded, photographed and verified by the OSCE and/or Cypriot representative prior to disposal. Upon completion of disposal operations a destruction certificate was signed by the OSCE and Cypriot MoD (see attached). The project implementation team included

representatives of the Conflict Prevention Centre, the United Kingdom, the United States, and experts from the CNG. Travel and accommodation of the international experts was covered by the national governments and regular CPC budget.

Experts from the United Kingdom and the United States provided safety oversight and technical advice, validating CNG capabilities to conduct similar large-scale demolition operations in the future. The high level professionalism of the CNG staff was confirmed through the process and required minimum intervention from the OSCE experts' side.

The destruction programme was conducted on an established CNG demolition range where similar activities are commonplace. This facility is designed to eliminate the impact of detonations on the surrounding rural area. Noise pollution was discussed with the local population and at their request conducted by one detonation per day. The topography of the range also reduced the noise effects to the nearest civilian population. The location of the range is significantly distant from surface bodies of water and the ground water table, eliminating the threat of leaching of pollutants. The very low level of cadmium content in the warhead poses no significant threat to the environment and is within CNG acceptable levels.

Consultations with the local community and public information were given a primary importance throughout the process. A destruction ceremony and media event was held on the fourth day of the destruction programme. This event included an address by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus Costas Papacostas, FSC Chairperson Mr. Ilia Giorgadze and the representative of the Greek Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Vasilis Papaioannou. All of the 56 OSCE participating States were invited to observe the destruction process. Representatives of the international organizations, local community and media also took part in this event to observe the final destruction. The report on the event was delivered by main TV channels in the prime time news.

The final report on the completion of the project was circulated by the CPC in November 2009. The delegation of Cyprus presented the project and its results, including video material at the FSC, also in November 2009.

Annex H: OSCE Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan

In 2008, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan finalized most of the Comprehensive Programme on SALW and Conventional Ammunition in Tajikistan, with the final completion expected in spring 2009. The implementation of this Programme consisting of two phases lasted from 2005 to 2008. Phase I of the Programme was designed to tackle problems of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition, as well as safe and secure management of the stockpiles of national holdings of the remaining SALW and ammunition in Dushanbe and its vicinity. Following the successful completion of Phase I in November 2006, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe started the implementation of Phase II, extending the scope of action from the capital to cover all the regions of the country, including the area along the Tajik-Afghan border. Phase II of the Programme was designed to increase regional stability, SALW control and the anti-drug-trafficking capabilities of the law enforcement authorities throughout the territory of Tajikistan.

Phase II, scheduled for implementation from 2006 to 2009, consisted of five tasks, of which Tasks III and V dealt primarily with the physical security of stockpiles of SALW at over 30 storage sites belonging to at least nine government agencies. Task III of the programme facilitated the national efforts that Tajikistan was undertaking with a view to actively developing the country's law enforcement capabilities to combat modern threats and challenges, including organized crime and drug trafficking. In particular, it helped bring the existing storage capacities in line with the current operational needs and OSCE standards and best practices. Task III was completed in spring 2009 with an overall budget of 1,206,000 euros.

Task V provided enhanced training on SALW and ammunition for technicians and stockpile commanders. The main objective of this training was to give the trainees a clear understanding and knowledge of safety principles for the storage of military ammunition and explosives and to teach them management procedures for the storage of both conventional ammunition and SALW. The training was based on the best available practices and involved trainees from all regions and from government agencies.

In 2009, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe provided the final briefing to the FSC and the donors on the successful completion of the project.

The following contributions were pledged by participating States to support Phases I and II:

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
Phase I	
Finland	100,000
Norway	30,000
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)
Slovenia	40,000
Sweden	170,575
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)
United States of America	164,000
Total for Phase I:	504,575
Phase II	
Austria	30,000
Belgium	50,000
Denmark	7,000
Finland	445,000
Luxembourg	40,000
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)
Norway	90,000
Sweden	100,000
Spain	150,000
Sweden (through the UNDP)	200,000
United States of America	235,800
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)
Total for Phase II:	1,347,800
Total for Phases I and II:	1,852,375

Annex I: Donors to SALW projects

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on SALW received from 2005 to 2009.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2005		
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase I (SALW and conventional ammunition)
Slovenia	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Sweden	170,575	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	164,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Total for 2005:	504,575	
2006		
Belgium	50,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Belgium	55,331	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	60,000	Tajikistan, Phase II (SALW and conventional ammunition)
Spain	100,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Sweden	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden	524,846	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United Kingdom	145,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase II
United States of America	235,800	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2006:	1,370,977	
2007		
Norway	309,006	Belarus
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
Spain	150,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden (through the UNDP)	200,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2007:	659,006	

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2008		
Austria	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Denmark	7,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Finland	345,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Luxembourg	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2008:	452,000	
2009		
Finland	80,000	Belarus, Phase II
France	15,000	Belarus, Phase II
Greece	30,000	Belarus, Phase II
Norway	208,918	Belarus, Phase II
Spain	100,000	Belarus, Phase II
Total for 2009:	433,918	
Total for 2005–2009:	3,430,476	

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL ON THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

(CIO.GAL/8/09 of 11 November 2009)

Executive summary

This progress report gives comprehensive factual information on the current status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) in the period ranging from November 2008 to November 2009¹. Furthermore, the report also indicates those specific areas, where the most critical action or assistance is needed. The following results were achieved in 2009:

In 2009, participating States pledged approximately 1.2 million euros for SCA projects – only half as much as in 2008.

2009 has been a year marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects, leading to the completion of projects in Albania and Tajikistan.

The melange project in Ukraine, one of the largest OSCE extrabudgetary projects ever, is now in the process of implementation. Until the end of 2010 more than 3,000 tonnes of melange will be transported to a chemistry production facility in the Russian Federation for neutralization. Funding is needed for the second phase of the project.

Others projects are in their initial phases of implementation. Based on an assessment visit conducted in 2008, the OSCE concluded discussions with Kazakhstan on enhancing its capacity for testing of propellants, and has now developed a project proposal. Also, the project proposal on providing specialized equipment for clearance of unexploded ordnance by the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Ukraine has been completed. Finally, the Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA in Moldova is approaching completion, and the first two projects have already been released for sponsorship. All the above-mentioned projects can start when sufficient funding has been received.

Unfortunately, all ongoing and planned projects in Georgia were suspended in 2009 as a result of the closing of the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

A new request for assistance made by Albania in 2009 brings the accumulated number of requests on SCA up to 13 currently dealt with by the OSCE.

Co-operation between the UNDP and the OSCE has been improved in 2009 following the finalization of the negotiations on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects. This agreement will serve as a template for all future transfer of funds between the organizations.

1 The deadline for submitting inputs for this report was 6 November 2009.

Co-ordination of efforts with other international organizations has been intensified on project activities as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA and SALW. When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

Although the report concludes that 2009 has been a successful year, it emphasizes the need for further donations in 2010. Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE work. SCA projects have good public relations value and are therefore of high importance to the organization as such. The OSCE has a number of important projects that are in urgent need of funding. Participating States are therefore encouraged to seriously consider contributions for these projects.

1. Introduction

At the last Ministerial Council meeting, in Helsinki, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA (MC.DEC/11/08). The present report covers ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. The report presents conclusions and suggests focus areas.

It has been recognized that surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel component melange, adversely affect the security and stability of countries and regions. Since 1995, the world has seen at least 215 known or suspected explosive events in ammunition storage areas². In 2009 alone, ammunition explosions occurred in at least four participating States killing at least ten persons in the OSCE area. This underlines the need to further develop the co-operation on stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The OSCE has developed a solid base for tackling the problem of stockpiles of conventional ammunition stored in conditions that do not meet minimum safety standards. Currently, the Forum is dealing with requests from 13 countries to address the problem.

Due to the OSCE not being a legal entity, implementation of such projects requires special focus due to increased risks and possible liabilities. However, non-action is not an option, as doing nothing could result in the loss of life and possible environmental catastrophe. Thus, preventive action such as demilitarization and improvement of storage facilities is supported at the Forum for as a generally wiser and less costly course of action.

In 2009, the OSCE continued to provide practical assistance to participating States. As shown in the report, the OSCE has been able to respond to requests and assist participating States in building or strengthening their national capacities by providing expertise, mobilizing both technical and financial resources, and implementing projects, including through co-operation with other international organizations.

2 Source: Report "The Threat from Explosive Events in Ammunition Storage Area" by Explosive Capabilities Limited (Edition 2009/5).

2. Objective

This report is intended to provide an update on the implementation of general principles regarding conventional ammunition agreed by all the participating States in the Document on SCA. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on conventional ammunition carried out in response to assistance requests from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2008 to November 2009 (for full particulars on OSCE activities on conventional ammunition, see MC.GAL/4/05, MC.GAL/5/06, MC.GAL/6/07 and MC.GAL/3/08/Rev.2).

The report is primarily designed to provide an overview of the status of projects, and best practice guides, and to highlight the issues posing challenges to successful implementation of the OSCE projects under the Document on SCA in the near future.

3. National efforts

3.1 National efforts related to stockpiles of conventional ammunition

The OSCE Document on SCA identifies areas of responsibility to be embraced by all participating States. These include management and security of national stockpiles of conventional ammunition; management of explosive material and explosive devices and the identification and reduction of surpluses.

3.2 Development of best practice guides

In 2009, following the endorsement of the document titled Liquid Rocket Fuel in the OSCE Area: Overview of Disposal Aspects (FSC.DEL/443/07/Rev.2), the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) arranged for the document to be translated into the Russian language and distributed the document to participating States, international organizations and other interested parties.

4. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on SCA

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 25 requests for assistance in the SCA area from 13 participating States. Specifically, six requests for assistance in ensuring safe and secure stockpiles of ammunition, nine requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition, seven requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel component (melange) and three requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war.

In 2009, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. The year was marked by the strong implementation phase in many projects.

4.1 Requests for assistance in disposing of conventional ammunition

4.1.1 Requests being assessed or in the project development phase

In 2009, all the ongoing and planned projects in Georgia were stopped due to the situation around the status of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. Following the receipt of the approval of the OSCE Greek Chairmanship-in-Office to continue project activities in October 2009, the OSCE Secretariat is looking into different options of using implementing partners in order to resume activities on ammunition destruction in Georgia.

In 2009, the OSCE continued discussing with Kazakhstan potential projects for supporting national demilitarization activities run by its Ministry of Defence. Following the assessment visit conducted from 8 to 10 September 2008 to evaluate the list of equipment requested by Kazakhstan in order to enhance its capacity for testing of propellants, a project proposal has been developed. Given the receipt of sufficient funding, the project is scheduled for implementation in 2010.

Following the requests for assistance submitted by Moldova as well as assessment and technical visits conducted during 2006–2008, the OSCE Mission to Moldova together with the CPC is currently finalizing the development of the OSCE Comprehensive Programme for Moldova that will tentatively embrace the following aspects:

- Construction of a new ammunition storage facility in Bulboaca;
- Upgrade of SALW and ammunition storage facilities (Floresti, Cahul, Balți, Chisinau);
- Procurement and equipping of a mobile system for visual inspection of conventional ammunition;
- Destruction of cluster bombs;
- Destruction of air bombs;
- Disposal of 19 R60 air-to-ground rockets;
- Disposal of 5V28 surface-to-air missiles;
- Ammunition technician training.

The first two projects have already been uploaded into IRMA and can be launched once sufficient funding has been secured. Other projects will follow shortly.

In 2008–2009, there was no significant progress with respect to Belarus's request for assistance due to the lack of potential donors.

In February 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic submitted a request for assistance to the FSC for enhancing stockpile management and security of SALW and conventional ammunition in the southern part of the country, where an increase in the activity of radical extremist groups is putting the current storage facilities at risk. In July 2008, the request was substantiated by

the questionnaire that provided detailed information about the type of assistance requested. The CPC conducted an assessment visit to the country from 10 to 14 November 2008 with the participation of independent experts and representatives of participating States. In consultation with the Kyrgyz authorities and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, a project plan is being developed by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Conflict Prevention Centre to provide the necessary budgetary assistance.

Following the finalization of the plan of demilitarization activities in September 2008, Albania submitted a request for assistance to the OSCE to upgrade and modernize the demilitarization facilities at Mjekes and Poliçan. In response, the OSCE Presence in Albania, with the approval of the Government of Albania, developed a project aimed at assisting the Ministry of Defence with modernizing and upgrading their present demilitarization facilities. To do so, this project envisions the procurement and installation of six hydro-abrasive band saws, which will double the Government's present disposal rate. The project is planned to be completed in spring–summer 2010.

4.1.2 Projects under implementation

In February 2007, Montenegro requested OSCE assistance in destroying surplus ammunition, improving stockpile management and security and eliminating toxic chemicals (rocket fuel components and napalm component)³. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) was established under UNDP management. The OSCE is providing political support, technical expertise in project implementation on the elimination of toxic chemicals and funding. The implementation of the Programme was initially planned for 2007–2009, it has however been extended with the final deadline for completion on 31 December 2010.

In May 2009, the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro completed the destruction of heavy weapons systems, as foreseen in the MONDEM Programme. Following the destruction of 61 tanks in July 2007, the Ministry of Defence destroyed 7 armoured vehicles, 24 howitzers and 60 artillery guns. The proceeds from the sale of metal scrap have been returned by the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro to the Programme in order to finance other tasks of the Programme.

The second component of the MONDEM Programme is aimed at solving the problems of secure storage and management in the ammunition storage areas. The project will make it possible to bring the management and security of stockpiles of SALW (conventional ammunition) in Montenegro to a level corresponding both to national requirements and to recommendations set forth in the UN Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) and the OSCE SALW Best Practice Guide on Stockpile Management and Security. During 2008–2009, the UNDP project team made progress on improving the infrastructure and facilities at two storage sites in Brezovik and Taras. This MONDEM project has been funded through UNDP donors.

As concerns the project on the demilitarization of surplus conventional ammunition supported by the OSCE, the project was designed to dispose of (demilitarize) approximately 9,900 tonnes of conventional ammunition in a safe, efficient and effective way that complied

3 The project on the disposal of toxic waste in Montenegro was completed in November 2008.

with all relevant international and EU environmental and safety legislation, and hence with existing international “best practice”. The final list of ammunition for disposal has been approved. In May 2009, the UNDP, the OSCE and the Ministry of Defence signed an MoU in order to start the demilitarization activities. In the meantime, the original amount of conventional ammunition was reduced due to the sale of parts of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition conducted by the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro. Phase I of the ammunition demilitarization will be completed in spring 2010 and will result in the destruction of about 1.8 million pieces of ammunition. Preparations for the implementation of Phase II of the project have been launched, and it is scheduled to start in March 2010.

In March 2009, the OSCE has successfully completed the negotiations on the agreement regulating transfer of funds between the organizations. The finalization of the agreements enabled the OSCE to release 345,000 euros contributed by OSCE donors for the UNDP MONDEM Programme and transfer the amount. It is understood that the agreement will serve as the template for all future transfers of funds to the UNDP.

Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in Annex B.

In spring 2009, the OSCE Centre in Tajikistan finalized the Comprehensive Programme on SALW and Conventional Ammunition in Tajikistan. The implementation of this two-phase Programme extended over the period 2005–2009. Phase I of the Programme was designed to tackle problems of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition as well as safe and secure stockpile management of the national holdings of the remaining SALW and ammunition in Dushanbe and its vicinity. Following the successful completion of Phase I in November 2006, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe started the implementation of Phase II, extending the scope of action from the capital to all the regions of the country, including the Tajik-Afghan border. Phase II of the Programme was designed to increase regional stability, SALW control and the anti-drug-trafficking capabilities of the law enforcement authorities throughout the territory of Tajikistan.

The remaining two tasks of Phase II were completed in 2009.

Task IV. Improving the security of stockpiles of conventional ammunition for the Ministry of Defence.

The main objective of the project was to contribute towards the regional stability in Central Asia by safe and secure storage of SALW and conventional ammunition within Tajikistan, thereby strengthening the law enforcement capabilities of the governmental authorities, reducing human threat and risks of SALW and ammunition misuse and destabilizing proliferation. The project resulted in providing the necessary conditions for running SALW and ammunition stockpile security and management system in accordance with the OSCE standards and best practices. The development of safe and secure SALW and conventional ammunition storage capacities within this project was foreseen within the ministries and governmental agencies at the regional level in Khorog (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast), Kulyab city (Khatlon region), Kurgantube city (Khatlon region), Garm district (Rasht valley), Khojent city and Chkalovsk city (Sogd region).

Construction of the storage facility for conventional ammunition was completed in December 2008.

Task V. Training of ammunition technicians and training in physical security and management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

The main objective of the project was to contribute towards safe and secure storage of SALW and conventional ammunition within Tajikistan by the provision of combined ammunition technician training course and SALW physical security and stockpile management training to be held in Tajikistan for at least 25 storekeepers and storage labour force.

The training aimed to provide a clear understanding and knowledge of safety principles at the operational level for the safe storage of military ammunition and explosives and management procedures for both conventional ammunition and SALW storages, as well as to improve the practical skills of participants.

The training was based upon best practices available outside the country and on bringing together students from all regions and governmental agencies, participating in the implementation of the SALW and Conventional Ammunition Programme, to the capital city of Tajikistan, Dushanbe. Both basic and advanced training sessions were offered to the participants. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan prepared training materials, identified target participants and invited an international expert to support in provision of training.

Thanks to the training, Tajikistan governmental agencies have at least 27 highly trained persons able to apply OSCE standards and best practices on SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile security and management at their units. The project was completed in December 2008. Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in Annex B.

In October 2007, the Ministry of Emergency Response of Ukraine asked for assistance in providing equipment needed for ground and underwater clearance of explosive remnants of war left on its territory, especially in the area around the cities of Sevastopol and Kerch. In summer 2008, the OSCE undertook an assessment visit with the participation of OSCE representatives and two experts seconded by Norway. The assessment confirmed the need for additional equipment in order to facilitate Ukrainian national efforts to clear the affected areas. A project proposal was developed by the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the CPC that is designed to provide the necessary equipment for personal protection and for searching for and destroying unexploded ordnance. The implementation of the project can start once sufficient funding has been secured.

In September 2009, a visit from potential donor countries took place to Crimea to assess the situation on the ground. Experts and representatives from Denmark and the United States of America took part in the visit. The team confirmed the need for assistance as well as agreed on the list of equipment put forward in the OSCE project proposal. A list of additional equipment, as compared to the initial OSCE proposal, has also been submitted by the Ukrainian side and could become a separate project to be implemented by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

4.2 Requests for assistance on elimination of liquid rocket fuel components (melange and samin)

At the end of 2006, an informal “Group of Friends” for the elimination of rocket fuel component melange was established to discuss and speed up the implementation of projects in this field.

In February 2008, Albania submitted a request to the FSC for assistance in the disposal of about 30 tonnes of melange stored on its territory.

With the approval of the Government of Albania, the OSCE Presence in Albania launched a project to neutralize the dangerous chemicals. Following the signing of the trilateral agreement between the OSCE Presence, the Ministry of Defence of Albania and the contractor in October 2008, the project was implemented by transporting the melange to the industrial facilities in Sweden, where it was processed in an environmentally friendly and safe manner in July 2009. Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in Annex C.

In Kazakhstan, the total amount of melange to be disposed of was decreased by the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan to 410 tonnes. Based on extensive consultations with the OSCE, the Government of Kazakhstan decided to take the lead in implementation of the project, while the OSCE is providing technical advice, expert monitoring and limited financial support. The Government assumes full responsibility and liability arising from the selection of the contractor and the implementation of the project. In 2009, the Government was not able to secure sufficient funding and to sign the implementation contract. Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in Annex C.

The melange project in Ukraine became one of the largest OSCE extrabudgetary projects that the organization has ever undertaken. In 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, finalized Task I (selection of qualified contractor) of Phase III-A of the project and started to implement Task II (development and implementation of the detailed implementation plan) dealing with the practical disposal of melange stockpiles. Finalized in September 2009, Task I included the following major elements:

- Conducting an international tender to select a duly qualified, certified, competent and capable contractor for the elimination of the initial 3,168 tonnes of melange under Phase III-A;
- Performing extensive due diligence checks to verify the legal, operational and financial capacities of the selected contractor, including a rigorous and comprehensive environmental impact assessment of the contractor’s implementation plan;
- Signing a tripartite contract among the OSCE, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and the contractor which has successfully passed the tender evaluation and subsequent verifications.

Upon the successful completion of Task I, the Secretariat is actively proceeding with implementing activities under Task II of Phase III-A. Under the continuous monitoring and rigorous quality assurance by the OSCE, the contractor has begun removing and transporting,

batch by batch, a total of 3,168 tonnes of melange stored at two depots in Ukraine to its chemistry production facilities in the Russian Federation. There the melange is neutralized and safely processed into civilian-use chemical products. The plan calls for the removal of the first batch of melange in November 2009 from the Kalynivka depot for the disposal. The duration of Phase III-A of the project is planned to be 12 months.

In light of the dire need to eliminate rapidly deteriorating melange stockpiles at the other depots not covered in Phase III-A, the Secretariat has also been building up appropriate operational frameworks and conducting fund-raising activities for the potential follow-up.

4.3 Overview of disposal aspects of liquid rocket fuel in the OSCE Area

Following the adoption of FSC Decision No. 13/08 welcoming the development of the document Liquid Rocket Fuel in the OSCE Area: Overview of Disposal Aspects (FSC.DEL/443/07/Rev.2), the Conflict Prevention Centre distributed the overview among OSCE delegations and relevant OSCE field operations in the English and Russian languages.

4.4 National co-ordination bodies

In line with FSC Decision No. 4/08, the CPC has established and maintained an aggregate Directory of Points of Contact (POC) on SALW and SCA and other parties to the directory. Following the tasking of FSC Decision No. 4/08, the CPC provided updated information on projects on SALW and SCA via the Directory of POC.

4.5 Donors

The overall list of donors to OSCE SCA projects, including melange, is provided in Annex D.

5. Co-operation and exchange of information

5.1 Co-operation with the UNDP

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW that encouraged regional organizations to co-operate, develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UNDP. An MoU was signed by the two organizations in June 2006 and is designed to provide a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and conventional ammunition projects. Two joint projects were launched in the framework of the MoU in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007.

In May 2008, the MoU was extended for two years until June 2010. In spring 2009, both organizations finalized the negotiations on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects.

This agreement will serve as a template for all future transfer of funds between the organizations.

5.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

The OSCE exchanges information on OSCE project activities as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA with other international organizations. Following the OSCE's initiative on 27 November 2008, a one-day informal meeting was organized in Vienna with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on SALW and SCA. The first of its kind, the purpose of the meeting was (1) to take stock of SALW and SCA projects, which are implemented by international organizations, and (2) to discuss the OSCE proposal to start organizing such co-ordination meetings on a regular basis. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the proposal put forward by the OSCE to conduct informal co-ordination meetings on a regular basis. The idea was supported by all the representatives of the international organizations. The following general modalities for such meetings were agreed upon:

- One-day informal co-ordination meetings will be held twice a year;
- When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

The second meeting of the co-ordination initiative was held in NATO premises in July 2009. It is expected that the following meeting will be hosted by SEESAC in Belgrade.

Finally, OSCE representatives provide regular presentations on the subject at expert meetings organized by other international organizations and briefings organized for military representatives from other regions, and for other international organizations in Vienna.

6. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on SCA remains an effective and useful tool for addressing the problems arising from stocks of conventional ammunition. It continues to serve as an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of ammunition with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation. However, like in the field of SALW, it should be considered to enhance normative aspects in the SCA document.

The issues of SALW and SCA are closely interrelated. The Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions showed that there are often no clear criteria on how to determine surplus conventional ammunition. The OSCE should work further in this area both at norm-setting and practical levels.

Also projects show that the preferred method of disposing of surplus SCA remains its sale, and only conventional ammunition not subject for sale is destroyed. Therefore, the OSCE should: 1) consider introducing (as in the Document on SALW) a preference to destroy surplus conventional ammunition rather than to sell it, 2) consider introducing conventional ammunition export criteria.

Finally, the United Nations is planning the publication of two new guides that will deal with conventional ammunition (International Ammunition Guides and International Small Arms Control Standards). The OSCE needs to make sure that a reference to the SCA

Handbook is included in these new documents and that the OSCE provides input in development of these guides.

One of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA remains the one dealing with requests for assistance from participating States in the field of destruction, and stockpile management and security.

In this field, 2009 has been a very successful year. Projects were completed in Albania and Tajikistan and a project. A new project in Albania has been started up; and two other projects in Kazakhstan and Ukraine are ready for implementation when sufficient funding has been made available.

The most significant result in 2009, however, was the achieved progress in the melange project in Ukraine. With the newly gained impetus in 2008, the Secretariat managed to finalize an agreement with Ukraine to select a contractor and to start up implementation of the first phase of the project in the fall of 2009. The next important task will be to collect funding in 2010 in order to continue the programme.

Another important result in 2009 was the finalization of an agreement with the UNDP on financial and legal mechanisms that will facilitate the joint implementation of projects. This agreement, which is highly welcomed by donors, will serve as a template for all future transfer of funds between the organizations.

An unfortunate setback in 2009 was the suspension of all ongoing and planned projects in Georgia as a result of the closing of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. The Secretariat is now investigating ways to continue the work in Georgia with an implementing partner.

Although 2009 has been a successful year there are grounds for financial concern.

Participating States pledged in 2009 approximately 1.2 million euros for projects on conventional ammunition – only half as much as in 2008. In order to complete the planned and running projects on SCA, significantly higher contributions are required. It has been calculated that approximately 16 million euros are necessary in the next four years for this purpose. This includes 10 million euros to finalize the melange project in Ukraine.

Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE work. It has good public relations value and is therefore of high importance to the organization as such. Compared to how much participating States already contribute to the OSCE internal budget, the amounts required for ammunition and weapons projects seem small and insignificant. However, even small contributions can play a big difference in the field.

The OSCE has a number of important projects that are in urgent need of funding. Participating States are therefore encouraged to seriously consider contributions for these projects.

7. Annexes

- Annex A: Original requests for assistance and current status
- Annex B: Donor funding for planned/running conventional ammunition projects
- Annex C: Donor funding for planned/running melange projects
- Annex D: Overall funding to all SCA projects
- Annex E: Co-operation within the OSCE

Annex A: Original requests for assistance and current status

**Chart I. Original requests for assistance and current status
(Lists requests in the alphabetical order of participating States)**

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Albania	Date of request: 20 February 2008 Elimination of 30 tonnes of rocket fuel component (melange). Status: Completed Date of request: September 2008 Project on demilitarization of ammunition by provision of relevant equipment (band saws). Status: Ongoing
Armenia	Date of request: 22 April 2004 Elimination of 862 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel component (melange). Status: Completed
Azerbaijan	Date of request: 26 July 2005 Elimination of 1,200 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel components (melange and samin) and site clean-up. Status: Handed over to NATO and completed.
Belarus	Date of request: 9 March 2004 Disposal of 97,000 tonnes of surplus ammunition, increasing by 4,000–7,000 tonnes per year, including missiles and hexogen ammunition, through development of national capacity or transportation for disposal in a third country. (While there is an ongoing State programme for ammunition disposal (2.5 million US dollars), Belarus does not have the technical capacity to dispose of all types of surplus ammunition). Status: No activities.

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Georgia	<p>Date of request: 25 July 2007</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demilitarization of 4,300 tonnes of surplus ammunition (artillery shells, guided and unguided missiles, aviation bombs, pyrotechnic ammunition and shells of various calibres). 2. Remediation of soil at five former military airfields. 3. Disposal of 9,000 warheads by smelting. 4. Destruction of 4,705 items of ammunition by open detonation. <p>Status: Options for the resumption of activities are being considered.</p>
Kazakhstan	<p>Date of request: 15 December 2004</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance in the disposal of transportable conventional ammunition using industrial facilities in Arys and Kapchagai. 2. Assistance in the disposal of non-transportable conventional ammunition in their storage location (Ayaguz, Uch-Aral, Semipalatinsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk). 3. Re-establishment of a conventional ammunition test laboratory to carry out regular examination of conventional ammunition. 4. Establishment of a conventional ammunition management system as an integral part of common armed forces procurement and management system. 5. Elimination of 1,550 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel component (melange). <p>Status: Kazakhstan has taken the lead in ammunition disposal and the establishment of an ammunition management system. The OSCE provides some assistance in the melange project, under which the quantity of melange stated for elimination, has now been reduced to 410 tonnes, and has developed a project proposal for the conventional ammunition test laboratory.</p>
Kyrgyz Republic	<p>Date of request: 5 February 2008</p> <p>Improvement of the security and management of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition.</p> <p>Status: An assessment visit was carried out, and a project proposal is under development.</p>
Moldova	<p>Date of request: 20 December 2006</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of a new ammunition storage facility in Bulboaca. 2. Upgrade of SALW and ammunition storage facilities (Floresti, Cahul, Balți, Chisinau). 3. Procurement and equipping of a mobile system for visual inspection of conventional ammunition. 4. Destruction of cluster bombs. 5. Destruction of air bombs. 6. Disposal of 19 R60 air-to-ground rockets. 7. Disposal of 5V28 surface-to-air missiles. 8. Ammunition technician training. <p>Status: The pilot project was completed. A programme proposal covering items 1–3 as well as 5 and 7 has been finalized and is ready for implementation.</p>

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Montenegro	<p>Date of request: 28 February 2007</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Destruction of heavy weapons systems. 2. Destruction of 9,900 tonnes of surplus conventional ammunition. 3. Elimination of 160 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel components (melange, samin) and napalm. 4. Improvement of stockpile security and management. <p>Status: Heavy weapons systems have been destroyed. Melange stockpiles have been eliminated. Projects on the destruction of conventional ammunition and stockpile management and security are in progress.</p>
Russian Federation	<p>Date of request: 19 May 2004</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request for the disposal of surplus ammunition in Kaliningrad Oblast (100,000 tonnes, including 20,000 tonnes in a dangerous condition). 2. Improvement of stockpile security and management. <p>Status: Request withdrawn on 28 March 2007 (FSC.DEL/111/07). The Russian Federation will provide information about national efforts towards destroying the ammunition in question.</p>
Tajikistan	<p>Date of request: 21 September 2004 (Phase I), 22 February 2006 (Phase II)</p> <p>Specific situation: Organic arsenicals stored together with unexploded ordnances (UXOs) collected from the battlefield. Storage locations and conditions are not acceptable and present a serious danger to staff, the local population and civil infrastructure.</p> <p>Status: Completed.</p>
Ukraine	<p>Date of request: 29 September 2004, additional request 2 October 2007</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New destruction capacities for hexogen and part-hexogen charges in western Ukraine. 2. Improvement of security system for ammunition stockpiles. 3. Disposal of 16,764 tonnes of liquid rocket fuel component (melange). Following the consultations between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE, it is planned to eliminate 3,168 tonnes of melange as the pilot project. 4. Assistance in overcoming the consequences of the Novobohdanivka storage site disaster (destruction of remaining ammunition, area clean-up.) 5. Assistance in clearing unexploded ammunition left on the territory of Ukraine. <p>Status: The Novobohdanivka project was completed. The melange project is being implemented. The UXO/ERW⁴ clearance project is ready for implementation.</p>

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Uzbekistan	Date of request: 25 February 2005 Elimination of over 1,000 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel component (melange). Status: NATO has taken the lead in this project.

Annex B: Donor funding for planned/running conventional ammunition projects

Albania

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2009		
Denmark	120,000	
Total	120,000	2009

Georgia

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2007		
Spain	95,000	Airfield survey and TNT destruction (Part 2)
2008		
Greece	30,000	TNT destruction (Part 3)
2009		
Denmark	89,325	TNT destruction (Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA)
Total	214,325	2007–2009

Kazakhstan

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
–	–	
Total		
Funds needed:		302,500

Kyrgyz Republic

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
–	–	
Total		
Funds needed:		316,100 (tbc)

Moldova

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2006		
Finland	160,000	Destruction of obsolete ammunition
2007		
Lithuania	5,500	Visit to the UK ammunition storage facilities
United Kingdom	In kind	Visit to the UK ammunition storage facilities
United States of America	In kind	PSSM ⁵ training, module I
2008		
United States of America	In kind	PSSM ⁵ training, module II
2009		
Spain	80,000	Cluster bombs destruction
Total	245,500	
Funds needed:		1,247,025

Montenegro

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2007		
Denmark	150,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Spain	75,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Sweden	285,714	MONDEM Programme General (directly to the UNDP)
2008		
Belgium	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Italy	50,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
2009		
Spain	100,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Total	710,714	
Funds needed:		1,409,000

Ukraine

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
Denmark	50,000	Clearance of UXO
Total	50,000	
Funds needed:		311,200

Annex C: Donor funding for planned/running/recently completed melange projects

Albania

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2008	
Denmark	15,000
Finland	15,000
Greece	20,000
Sweden	15,000
Total	65,000
Funds needed:	0

Kazakhstan

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2006	
Spain	150,000
Sweden	40,000
Total	190,000
Funds needed:	n/a ⁶

Montenegro

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2007	
Liechtenstein	20,000
Total	20,000
Funds needed:	0

⁶ It has been agreed that the Government of Kazakhstan will provide the remaining amount necessary to start the project.

Ukraine

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2006	
Czech Republic	20,000
Finland	190,000
Poland	78,800
Spain	150,000
2007	
Czech Republic	66,086
Spain	200,000
2008	
Denmark	500,000
Norway	400,501
Sweden	1,591,693
2009	
Denmark	500,000
Germany	250,000
Total	3,947,080
Funds needed (estimated):	0 ⁷

Annex D: Overall funding for all SCA projects

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices in the period 2005–2009.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2005		
France	In kind (EOD training programme – 60,000)	Tajikistan, Phase I
Luxembourg	20,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Netherlands	266,812	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase I
Slovenia	25,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
United States of America	Stockpile management course	Tajikistan, Phase I
Total	401,812	2005
2006		
Andorra	20,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Belgium	25,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Czech Republic	30,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Finland	160,000	Moldova

7 More funds will be needed to continue the project.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2006		
France	In kind (EOD training programme – 60,000)	Tajikistan, Phase I
Lithuania	10,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Luxembourg	16,500	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Norway	60,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	110,250	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
Poland	39,400	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Slovenia	19,808	Tajikistan, Phase II
Slovenia	15,000	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Spain	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
United States of America	59,100	Ukraine, Novobohdanivka
Total	725,058	2006
2007		
Denmark	150,000	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
Lithuania	5,500	Moldova, visit to the UK ammunition storage facility
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
Spain	95,000	Georgia, demilitarization and airfield
Spain	75,000	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
Sweden	285,714	Montenegro MONDEM General (directly to the UNDP)
United Kingdom	In kind (visit to the UK ammunition storage facility)	Moldova
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management, Module I)	Moldova
Total	611,214	2007
2008		
Belgium	25,000	Montenegro MONDEM, destruction of surplus ammunition
Greece	30,000	Georgia, TNT destruction (Part 3)
Italy	50,000	Montenegro MONDEM, destruction of surplus ammunition
Luxembourg	25,000	Montenegro MONDEM, destruction of surplus ammunition

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2008		
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management, Module II)	Moldova
United States of America	141,000	Tajikistan
Total	271,000	2008
2009		
Denmark	89,308	Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA (Task: Georgia)
Denmark	50,000	Ukraine UXO Clearance
Denmark	120,000	Albania (demilitarization)
Spain	100,000	Montenegro MONDEM, destruction of surplus ammunition
Spain	80,000	Moldova (cluster bombs destruction)
Total	439,308	2009
Total, conventional ammunition	2,448,392	2005–2009

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on elimination of rocket fuel component (melange) in the period 2005–2009.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2005		
Finland	266,408	Armenia, melange
Germany	65,000	Armenia, melange
United States of America	903,454	Armenia, melange
Total	1,234,862	2005
2006		
Czech Republic	20,000	Ukraine, melange
Finland	190,000	Ukraine, melange
Poland	78,800	Ukraine, melange
Spain	150,000	Kazakhstan, melange
Spain	150,000	Ukraine, melange
Sweden	40,000	Kazakhstan, melange
Total	628,800	2006
2007		
Czech Republic	66,086	Ukraine, melange
Liechtenstein	20,000	Montenegro MONDEM, melange
Spain	200,000	Ukraine, melange
United States of America	70,000	Armenia, melange
Total	353,635	2007

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2008		
Denmark	500,000	Ukraine, melange
Denmark	15,000	Albania
Finland	15,000	Albania
Greece	20,000	Albania
Norway	400,000	Ukraine, melange
Sweden	15,000	Albania
Sweden	1,591,693	Ukraine, melange
Total	2,556,693	2008
2009		
Germany	250,000	Ukraine, melange
Denmark	500,000	Ukraine, melange
Total	750,000	2009
Total, melange	5,523,990	2005–2009
Total, SCA and melange	7,972,382	2005–2009

Annex E: Co-operation within the OSCE

Presentations at meetings of the FSC by heads of OSCE missions

During 2009, the practice whereby heads of mission/project managers reported to the FSC and groups of friends on politico-military activities and projects continued. Project managers from the following countries/OSCE institutions reported on project planning/implementation: OSCE Secretariat, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Tajikistan.

Training event on Stockpile Management and Security and Destruction of Conventional Ammunition

On 8 and 9 December 2009, the OSCE Centre in Almaty together with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre will organize a two-day regional training event to raise awareness about the OSCE Handbook on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. The event will gather representatives from other countries of the region and provided an opportunity to exchange experience and hear examples of the successful application of the guides set forth in the Handbook.

Exhibitions and side event at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Helsinki

On the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki in December 2008, the FSC Support Section presented photo exhibitions reflecting FSC assistance projects on SALW and conventional ammunition. The exhibition displayed different stages of project assessments and implementation in countries in which assistance was provided, including Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

Information brochure and documentary film

In order to raise awareness and promote FSC assistance projects on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, the FSC Support Section has published an information brochure about the projects. Also, an update of the ten-minute documentary film describing recent projects on SALW and conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel component melange, has been produced in English and Russian. It is planned to present the updated film on FSC assistance projects at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
ON EFFORTS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**
(CIO.GAL/7/09 of 24 November 2009)

1. Introduction and objective

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (hereinafter referred to as the Code) is a normative document adopted by the CSCE participating States at the Budapest Summit in December 1994. The Code entered into force on 1 January 1995. By adopting the document, the CSCE participating States agreed to reform their domestic politico-military affairs and to apply internationally agreed principles of democracy and rule of law to their national security policies and doctrines. The Code occupies a fundamental place among the body of normative documents developed within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, and remains unique among international commitments.

This report is intended, in line with Helsinki Ministerial Council Decision No. 13/08, to report on the progress achieved in efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code. It addresses the information exchange between participating States on implementation of the Code, efforts that have been undertaken since the Helsinki Ministerial Council and other additional activities conducted within the Organization to further the implementation of the Code. The report covers the period from November 2008 to November 2009.¹

2. Efforts by the FSC

Since the Helsinki Ministerial Council, the FSC has continued working towards enhanced implementation of the Code. Pursuant to the many proposals made at the special FSC meeting in 2006 and the special meeting of Working Group A in 2007, efforts to promote implementation of the Code were divided into three clusters. These clusters related to awareness raising and outreach, updating of the questionnaire, and supplementary measures. They allowed a more structured approach to discussing proposals made by participating States.

Work on the first cluster was completed in early 2008 with the adoption of the decision on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct (FSC.DEC/1/08). Thereafter, the FSC focused its efforts on the second cluster, with the aim of updating the questionnaire used by the participating States to share information on the implementation of the Code.

In April 2009, after a series of consultations, the FSC adopted a decision on the technical update of the questionnaire (FSC.DEC/2/09)². The new questionnaire has three

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 6 November 2009.

2 The questionnaire was originally developed in 1998 and last updated in 2003.

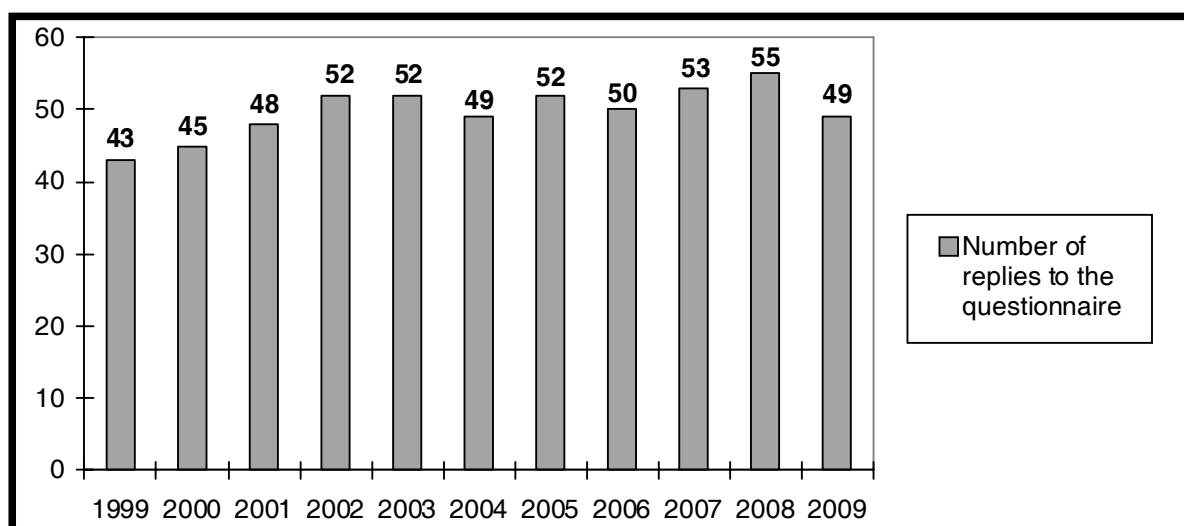
main sections covering inter-State elements, intra-State elements and public access and contact information. It introduces a number of new sub-items, *inter alia*, on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, on arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures, and on issues related to international humanitarian law. The questionnaire also further differentiates between types of armed and security forces and requests the participating States to provide information on military, paramilitary and security forces, as well as the police.

The updated questionnaire is an important step forward. It better reflects the structure of the Code of Conduct and the questions largely avoid overlap and duplication. With its 23 sub-items, the new questionnaire should help participating States to provide more structured information than was possible with the 16 sub-items in the old questionnaire.

After the adoption of the new questionnaire, the FSC Co-ordinator initiated work on the so-called third cluster on supplementary measures. So far, one delegation has made a proposal to improve the regular assessment of implementation of the Code. The same delegation has informed the participating States that it is preparing a draft decision on this subject, which will be distributed in the near future. Since initiation of the work on the third cluster, no other participating State has introduced a new proposal or referred to a proposal already made.

3. Information exchange

The participating States have agreed to exchange information on the implementation of the Code of Conduct (FSC.DEC/4/98) annually³. The level of commitment to the information exchange has traditionally been high, and the majority of the OSCE participating States have abided by their commitment to provide information about their implementation efforts. All the participating States have provided replies to the questionnaire at least once.



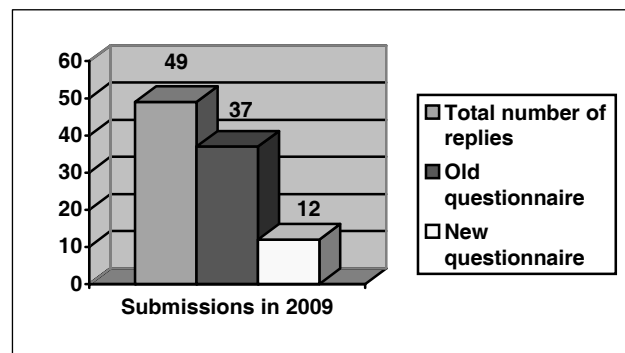
3 Normally, the participating States are required to provide their replies no later than 15 April each year. In 2009, the FSC decided (FSC.DEC/1/09) to postpone the deadline to 15 June.

This exchange is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency in respect to armed forces and their control by constitutionally established authorities. Since 2008, the replies have been published on the OSCE website, where they can be accessed by the public. So far, the individual replies have been accessed on the average between 6 and 10 times each.

In 2009, 49 participating States provided information on their implementation activities. The level of implementation in 2009 was significantly lower, and less compliant in timing, than in previous years. The FSC Chairperson's Announcing and Reminding Mechanism was extensively employed.

When deciding on the technical update, the participating States agreed that the first annual exchange of information in the new format would take place in 2010, although the option was available to use the format in 2009. Twelve participating States exercised the option.

In connection with the adoption of the technical update of the questionnaire, three interpretative statements were issued by participating States. They related to the voluntary exchange of information on women, peace and security; the voluntary exchange of information on the democratic political control of private military and security companies; and the voluntary nature of the provision of replies to question 1.4⁴. In the 2009 information exchange, a number of participating States included information on women, peace and security, and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).



As in previous years, the reports of participating States differ with regard to substance and depth and there is some overlap in the responses. After the 2010 information exchange, it should be possible to better analyse the responses to see whether the new questionnaire delivers a more structured and concise and less duplicative submission, and whether it can be further improved.

4. Awareness raising and outreach

The FSC decision on awareness raising and outreach adopted in 2008 tasked the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) with organizing at least one specialized, extrabudgetary event annually to promote the Code.

4 FSC.DEC/2/09, attachments 1, 2 and 3.

In line with this decision, the CPC organized, together with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, a regional seminar on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in South Eastern Europe from 3 to 5 November in Sarajevo. The event gathered some 20 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to share experiences and challenges in the Code's implementation. Among the topics discussed were, *inter alia*, parliamentary oversight of the armed forces, security sector reform and the relevance of the Code of Conduct for comprehensive security. The seminar witnessed an active participation from the invited countries and helped to identify regional challenges in the Code's implementation. The event was co-sponsored by Switzerland and Austria.

From 7 to 9 April, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a seminar to promote implementation of the Code of Conduct in the country and to examine challenges to the democratic control of armed forces. The seminar continued the series of events and training sessions organized by the Mission in previous years.

On 28 May, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro organized a round-table discussion on the media and defence reform. Building also on the OSCE Code of Conduct, the aim of the event was to promote more frequent contacts between the media and the Ministry in order to provide the public with timely information on defence sector reform.

5. Conclusions

Efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code remained at the same high level as in previous years. This year was marked by intensive discussions and negotiations on an update of the questionnaire and the implementation of the relevant FSC decision by the participating States. Awareness of the Code was further raised through national and regional seminars and workshops.

By adopting the FSC decision on a technical update of the questionnaire (FSC.DEC/2/09), the participating States in general contributed to more transparency and demonstrated their determination to enhance the implementation of the Code. Furthermore, some participating States are ready to extend the exchange of information, as reflected in their interpretative statements. After completion of the information exchange on 15 April 2010, when reporting on the basis of the new questionnaire will be obligatory, a qualitative improvement can be expected to be achieved in regard to transparency.

In 2009, the level of implementation of the information exchanges was at a significantly lower level than in previous years, and required the FSC Chairperson to make use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism.

In addressing supplementary measures (the third cluster), the FSC Co-ordinator asked the participating States to start working and remain engaged. A previously made proposal on regular assessment of implementation of the Code was reintroduced and discussed. The initial support by many participating States justifies continuing the discussions and focussing our work on this subject in the coming year.

In implementation of the FSC decision on awareness raising and outreach of the Code (FSC.DEC/1/08), national and regional seminars have been successfully conducted. Seminars and workshops not only ensure transparency as regards the democratic control of armed forces, but also improve implementation of the Code. Participating States hosting or participating in such seminars contribute to transparency, national and regional stability and security. All the participating States are encouraged to continue supporting and hosting seminars or workshops among participating States, and with the OSCE Partners.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
ON EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MANDATE**

(CIO.GAL/9/09 of 11 November 2009)

1. Introduction and objective

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision No. 13/08 of Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation. It provides an overview of efforts made in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), in accordance with its mandate, during the period from December 2008 until November 2009¹.

It also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, normative initiatives and developments in the Forum, and other related activities carried out in the Organization. The report reflects the discussions and decisions adopted in the Forum. Detailed information on implementation may be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and Other Measures Addressed during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting².

2. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2009

During 2009, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 1999 (VD 99)³. The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) maintains records of exchanges of information that take place as part of these commitments. They are regularly reflected in the CPC monthly reports and CPC quarterly and annual surveys on CSBM information exchanged. In addition, the CPC produces annual summary report that reflects trends in the implementation of CSBMs.

The level of CSBM implementation in the OSCE region is relatively stable and high. Measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI) and the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI), the level of implementation has remained steady during the past six years.

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 6 November 2009.

2 FSC.GAL/17/09, 13 February 2009.

3 Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, adopted at the 269th plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Istanbul on 16 November 1999, FSC.DOC/1/99.

As in 2008, 55 participating States provided information under the AEMI and 54 participating States submitted their reply under the GEMI in 2009. By 6 November 2009, 44 participating States had provided information on their defence planning in comparison with 47 submissions in 2007 and 41 submissions in 2008.

2009 was also an active year regarding inspections under the VD 99. In the previous year a record of 109 inspections were conducted and by 6 November 2009 the number of conducted inspections was 102. By the same time, 65 evaluation visits were conducted (in 2008:75).

In 2009, 51 participating States were connected to the Communications Network. The reliability of the Network remained very high with the servers in Vienna available over 99.9 per cent of the time. In addition, over half (32) of the end-user stations were connected to the network at least 99 per cent of the time. The custom OSCE software packages used to process notifications and to prepare annual information exchanges were also upgraded and provided to participating States.

3. Efforts by the FSC since the Helsinki Ministerial Council meeting

During 2009, a number of proposals were made regarding the improvement of implementation of the VD 99 provisions. One of these has so far resulted in a new FSC decision to adopt the Best Practice Guide for Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 Chapter IV, Contacts.

The nineteenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held on 3 and 4 March 2009. As in previous years, the meeting witnessed open and constructive discussions, exchanges of experience and a number of food-for-thought papers presented by delegations to strengthen the OSCE's CSBM regime.

Unlike in previous years, the 2009 meeting of the heads of verification centres (HoVC) was not held as an adjunct to the AIAM. In line with the FSC Decision No. 4/09 it will be held on 14 December 2009 and its conclusions will be presented to the 2010 AIAM. The objective of separating the two meetings was to allow the issues raised at the HoVC meeting to be better developed in advance of the AIAM, with a view to more concrete proposals resulting.

The seventh OSCE Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), held on 23 and 24 June, was organized against the backdrop of the wider discussion on the future of European security. Regarding the politico-military field, it was noted that arms control, disarmament and confidence-building constituted the key to an integrated security policy in the Euro-Atlantic area. Many delegations highlighted the crucial role of the CFE regime, the Treaty on Open Skies and the VD 99, but at same time called for their more effective implementation.

In October the FSC took a decision to adopt the Best Practice Guide for Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 Chapter IV, Contacts. This document should provide invaluable assistance in planning the large and complex visits to airbases and military facilities the participating States are required to organise once every five years.

In addition, a number of specific proposals and initiatives were discussed in FSC working groups and plenary meetings between December 2008 and November 2009, including:

- A proposal for a draft FSC decision on a single deadline for submission of information on defence planning, FSC.DEL/494/07/Rev.4/Corr.1;
- A proposal for a draft decision on guidelines for briefings by military representatives during evaluations and inspections under the provisions of the Vienna Document 1999, FSC.DD/5/09;
- A proposal for a draft decision on possible FSC action toward improving the application of Vienna Document 1999 compliance and verification measures by extending usage of digital cameras, FSC.DEL/124/09/Rev.1;
- A proposal for a draft decision on confidence- and security-building measures in the naval area, FSC.DEL/120/08/Rev.2.

In conclusion, 2009 has seen further development of CSBMs in the Forum and steps taken to improve implementation of existing CSBM commitments. Not all proposals have been successful, but active engagement by participating States in producing new ideas and proposals usefully continues.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM
FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GREECE,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Annex 8 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Your Excellency,

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the FSC since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Helsinki in 2008.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which in addition to the United Kingdom consist of France and Georgia. During 2009, the Chairmanships have continued working in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the Forum's annual work programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2009 has continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC). Separate progress reports on further implementation of the documents on these issues have been forwarded to the Ministerial Council, and contain more detailed information about developments in the FSC during the year regarding these aspects of its work.

During the year, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 1999. Implementing and strengthening the *acquis* of CSBMs remains high on the Forum's agenda.

Overall, 2009 was a challenging and active year for the FSC. Initiatives put forward by delegations had by November led to the adoption of eleven new decisions, some of which are updated supplementary measures to support already existing commitments, while others introduce new areas of work for the Forum. For example, among the former was a technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct and among the latter the Forum produced a best practice guide on export controls and transshipments as mandated by UNSCR 1540. During the year, the FSC also provided significant contributions to, *inter alia*, the Athens Ministerial Council, the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) and took part in the open meeting that constituted an element of the Comprehensive Review of UNSCR 1540.

Throughout the year the Forum engaged in an intensive dialogue *inter alia* on confidence- and security-building measures and emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues. The Forum's security dialogue on arms control and CSBMs was vigorous, with presentations and discussions on several issues that are topical for the European Security Dialogue.

One of the most important annual FSC events, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM), was held for the 19th time on 3 and 4 March 2009. As established in Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 1999, the Meeting provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of CSBMs. In 2009, the meeting of Heads of Verification Centres is to be held on 14 December, separating it from the AIAM in order to allow maturation and development of ideas between the two events. We hope that the meeting of Heads of Verification Centres will again, in 2009, prove to be a valuable opportunity to bring together the collective knowledge and expertise of participating States in the practical implementation of CSBM measures, and give rise to an exchange of experiences and recommendations on their improvement.

Following the AIAM, the FSC prepared its contribution to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held on 23 and 24 June. Following the practice of previous years, the contribution consisted of a list of politico-military elements that served as suggestions for topics of discussion at the Conference and the opening address by the FSC Chairperson on the activities of the Forum. On this occasion, the meeting was enlivened by the presence of Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as the keynote speaker. Discussions at the ASRC on the current politico-military situation and the value of the OSCE's security dialogue, arms control arrangements and the CSBMs in the OSCE area revealed the continuing relevance of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), despite one State Party's decision to suspend implementation of its obligations under the Treaty.

In 2009, discussion on several proposals regarding the improvement of implementation of VD 99 continued in the FSC working groups and plenary meetings. The discussions resulted in one new decision: a Best Practice Guide for Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 Chapter IV, Contacts.

In addition, the Forum held a Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security, on 17 and 18 March 2009 in Vienna, with the participation of relevant international organizations. This provided for a useful exchange of views between participating States on this emerging 21st century challenge. The Workshop was a follow-up to an initiative introduced during the 2008 Estonian FSC Chairmanship.

The OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) continued to receive considerable attention in the Forum, and participating States noted especially the need for their continued and enhanced implementation. In accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 and subsequent FSC decisions, an OSCE meeting was held on 22 and 23 September 2009 to review, for the first time, the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions. This provided for a rigorous and extensive examination of the OSCE Document on SALW by participating States together with relevant international organizations and NGOs. The consolidated summary of the meeting, and its survey of suggestions, provides the basis for a range of potential normative and practical action that the FSC could take in 2010 and beyond. Activity continues in the Forum to discuss proposals for taking this work forward. The range of normative work on SALW was reduced in 2009 in anticipation of the key meeting to review the SALW Document.

In 2009, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on SALW and SCA. Dealing with these requests from participating States in regard to destruction and stockpile management and security of SALW and SCA remains one of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. The second phase of the comprehensive assistance programme on SALW and conventional ammunition in Tajikistan was completed in 2009. Following a request from Cyprus for assistance with the destruction of a number of man-portable air defence systems, a programme was successfully completed in June 2009. In response to a request from Albania the OSCE destroyed stocks of the dangerous rocket fuel melange in July 2009. During the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of two joint assistance programmes with the UNDP, one in Montenegro and the other one in Belarus. In the field of practical assistance on SALW and SCA, special attention should be paid on resolving issues regarding the financing of projects in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. The FSC continued to manage the comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. In addition to regular donations to established projects, this programme facilitates contributions to SALW and SCA projects under development. During 2009 a significant reduction in donor financial support to SCA and SALW projects was noted. The FSC received two new requests for assistance on SALW and/or SCA.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is a normative document adopted by the OSCE participating States with a view to enhancing the norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security and the responsibilities of States towards each other, as well as the democratic control of armed forces in the OSCE region. During 2009, intensive discussions continued on an important technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct and a decision was adopted by the FSC in April. A second decision, postponing the 2009 Annual Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct, was adopted to allow participating States to use the new questionnaire format should they choose to do so.

The general level of implementation of information exchanges in 2009 was significantly lower, and less compliant in timing, than in previous years. FSC Chairs made extensive use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism in order to improve the availability of information among participating States. These efforts have engendered some greater compliance with obligations, although not all participating States have yet provided the information required.

Work also continued on supporting the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The participating States are currently discussing the preparation of a suite of best practice guides for implementation of UNSCR 1540. The guides would provide a compendium of suggested implementation practices and could assist in the continuing development of national action plans by participating States. One such Best Practice Guide on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Export Controls and Transshipment was adopted by the FSC. At a meeting of the FSC on 11 March, a number of high-level experts on counter-proliferation discussed the way forward on 1540 and the OSCE's relevance in that progress. A representative of the CPC attended the 1540 review meeting in New York in October 2009 and was able to provide an update to the review meeting on the work being undertaken on 1540 by the OSCE in Vienna. In addition, the FSC Chairmanship held a special Security Dialogue on 21 October which concentrated on 1540 and included presentations by a representative from NATO and the US 1540 co-ordinator.

Finally, in line with the Greek OSCE Chairmanship's priorities, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2009 continued working on strengthening co-operation between the FSC and the Permanent Council (PC) as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Five joint FSC-PC meetings were held during 2009 to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
OPEN SKIES CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TO THE
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
GREECE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Annex 9 to MC(17) Journal No. 2 of 2 December 2009)

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC), I have the honour, on behalf of the chairmanships of the Kingdom of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Bulgaria, to inform you of the activities of the OSCC following the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki in 2008.

During the reporting period the OSCC focused on current issues essential to the effective implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies, and began planning for the Second Review Conference on the Implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies, to take place in 2010.

Since the previous reporting period, the States Parties have conducted over 100 observation flights that by and large have been judged successful and have been conducted in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation between the observing and the observed parties. In the course of these observation flights, the States Parties made wide use of such forms of co-operation as shared observation flights, in which two or more observing parties participated in an observation mission over the observed party. Furthermore, the States Parties continued the practice of conducting training observation flights on a bilateral basis.

The OSCC began planning the necessary arrangements for the organization of the Second Review Conference in 2010. The OSCC took three decisions regarding the Conference, establishing the dates (Decision No. 4/09) and the rules of procedure and working methods (Decision No. 5/09), and setting up the Informal Working Group on Planning the Review Conference (IWGPRC) (Decision No. 6/09). The IWGPRC has begun discussions on preparation of the agenda and final document of the Conference.

The OSCC continues to address the issues arising in relation to the day-to-day implementation of the Treaty through the Informal Working Group on Rules and Procedures (IWGRP). The IWGRP finalized, and the OSCC adopted, two important decisions: on alternate airfields governing both the practice of designation and use of such airfields by the States Parties, and the mechanism for distribution of costs arising due to the landing of an observation aircraft at an alternate airfield (Decision No. 9/08) and the fifth revision of Decision Number One to the Treaty on Open Skies (Decision No. 2/09), which is a compendium of the fundamental financial documents relating to the Treaty. This revision comprises provisions on the mechanism for mutual financial settlements between the States Parties associated with landings of observation aircraft, including at alternate airfields, which had not been previously established in the Treaty and OSCC decisions.

During 2009, the Informal Working Group on Sensors (IWGS) continued their work on revision one to Decision Number Fourteen (the video decision) and on a new decision on

digital image processing. In January, the OSCC agreed on a Chairperson's statement that establishes the technical specifications for digital video sensors, enabling States Parties to begin future acquisition planning. The IWGS is continuing its discussions on these decisions so as to enable States Parties to prepare for transition from the current film-based sensors.

A meeting on active quota distribution was held on 8 October and resulted in an agreement on the distribution of active quotas in the year 2010. The meeting was regarded as being very time efficient, successful and in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty. The Chairperson is hopeful that this vital instrument of co-operation will become a permanent institution. On the basis of the results of the meeting, the OSCC adopted a decision on distribution of active quotas for observation flights in the year 2010 (Decision No. 8/09).

The overall number of States Parties to the Treaty has remained at 34. In 2009, no new applications for accession to the Treaty have as yet been registered. The Chairperson encourages and welcomes accession to the Treaty by more OSCE participating States. The application of Cyprus remains on the agenda of the OSCC.

The Treaty on Open Skies continues to enhance openness and transparency among the States Parties and contributes to maintaining a climate of co-operation in their territories, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Moreover, the Treaty is making a substantial contribution to achieving the goals and objectives of the OSCE, in particular to the objective of promoting confidence, stability and security in Europe. In that regard, we welcome the professionalism of States Parties in 2009 in continuing to implement their commitments under the Open Skies treaty and build confidence, sometimes even in challenging circumstances.

Your Excellency, you may deem it useful to reflect this information in the relevant documents of the Ministerial Council meeting.

**REPORT TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE AGREEMENT ON SUB-REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL
(ARTICLE IV, ANNEX 1-B, DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS)**

(MC.GAL/10/09 of 9 November 2009)

The Article IV Agreement was signed in 1996 in the context of the measures elaborated under the Dayton Peace Accords in order to create stable peace in the region. Its main scope is to achieve and maintain balanced and stable defence force levels in the sub-region in terms of holdings of heavy weapons and personnel. In short, the Agreement provides the legal framework for the maintenance of an intrusive arms control inspection regime in military bases and installations within the area of application.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and his small staff is charged with assisting the Parties in the implementation and verification of the agreed arms control measures. Broadly speaking, the Personal Representative's role is to broker political consensus, ensure that the process flows smoothly, and surmount obstacles to the Agreement's implementation.

There are now four Parties to this sub-regional arms control accord: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia.

The aim of the present report is to highlight the most important developments of the operational year since the last report in Helsinki in December 2008:

- As regards verification measures, the Parties approved the Inspection Plan for the year 2009, which was a substantial one. The programme is at present running according to schedule and proceeding smoothly without any problems in the field. As of 15 November 2009, a total of 621 regular inspections and 129 reduction inspections/visits had been successfully accomplished since the signing of the Agreement in 1996. These activities have been carried out through the work of 1098 international assistants voluntarily provided by 29 of the OSCE participating States;
- One important point is that the Parties have confirmed the continuation of the trend of a further downsizing of their military manpower. It is worth noting that, according to the military information exchanges, the dimensions of the Parties' armed forces have continuously decreased and can no longer be compared with those of 1996. Military manpower is now far below the levels contained in the statements on voluntary limitations made by the Parties when the Agreement was signed on 14 June 1996 in Florence, Italy;
- The 41st Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (SRCC) held in Montenegro in October 2008 saw the signing of the formal amendments to the Agreement relating to Montenegro, as a successor in territory, becoming the fourth Party to the Agreement;
- By reason of the positive implementation of the Agreement, the Parties agreed to reduce the number of SRCC meetings from three to two per year, resulting in a

significant saving of financial resources both for the OSCE and the Parties themselves;

- In February 2009, a photographic exhibition on the implementation of the Article IV Agreement was mounted at the Hofburg in Vienna, providing a good opportunity for the celebration of the 300th inspection mission, which was conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2008. The exhibition was a success and the Parties expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for an initiative aimed at making the public more aware of the Agreement and its content;
- In March 2009 the yearly analysis of the 2008 inspection regime and of the exchange of military information submitted by the Parties at the 2008 Data Exchange Meeting revealed absolute adherence to the dictates of the Agreement and correct implementation of the related activities;
- An important step ahead has been the adoption of the OSCE Communication Network's Integrated Notification Application (INA) for the exchange of information and notifications between the Parties, which became obligatory on 1 January 2009. Once fully operational, this system will lead to a reduction of operational costs and will facilitate the efficient and secure exchange of information amongst the Parties and with the OSCE;
- In connection with the implementation of the Dayton INA and with the aim of further integrating the Parties' verification centres into the OSCE network, a programme is being developed for the adoption of the Dayton Automated Data System (ADS) in the Parties' annual exchange of military information;
- Three important documents have been finalized in 2008/2009: the "Updated Version" of the Agreement, the "Historical Compendium", which highlights the most important events in the history of the Agreement, and the "Handbook", which provides the inspectors and their escorts in the field with a useful manual for their work in the field and is also used in practice by staff personnel;
- Another issue that deserves to be mentioned is the process launched by the Parties to develop new voluntary reduction procedures for the irreversible use of armaments for military purposes, to be followed after the end of the reduction phases. The aim of the project is to elaborate new procedures less expensive and time-consuming than the procedures in the official Protocol of Reduction attached to the Agreement. In this regard, it is worth noting that the Parties have so far reduced their holdings by the impressive number of 9228 heavy weapons. Furthermore, they continue to voluntarily notify and verify the reduction of their heavy weapons even though their current holdings are far below the numerical limitations.

In conclusion, from the technical point of view, the implementation of the Article IV Agreement continues to be carried forward with full respect being paid to the measures agreed. The Parties are to be congratulated for the remarkable success that they have achieved during the last year of implementation.

We will now consider what have been the most relevant developments from the political point of view.

Against the background of the general improvement of the sub-region's military stability, the OSCE international community continues to encourage the Parties to strengthen their own voice in the execution of the Agreement with a view to gradually attaining full autonomy. This is an implicit recognition of the high level of transparency and military co-operation achieved by the Parties in the course of the last 13 years and is in line with the regional trend towards greater ownership also evident in other fields of action in the southern European region.

In their final document of the last Review Conference held in Vienna in July 2008, the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to continue the implementation of the Agreement. Furthermore, they expressed their readiness to explore, with the assistance of the Personal Representative, modalities for further strengthening their ownership of that implementation.

As a result, the Office of the Personal Representative has elaborated a two-phase ownership plan. The aim of Phase 1 of this plan is the medium-term transfer to the Parties of certain technical functions currently provided by the Office of the Personal Representative. The aim of Phase 2 is to make arrangements for measures designed to prepare for the transfer of full autonomy to the Parties in the following years, when the time is considered ripe. When the last report of the Personal Representative was presented to the Permanent Council, the ownership process and the two-phase plan was supported by the EU and associated countries, by the USA and by Russia, with the recommendation to proceed gradually and in close co-operation with the Parties.

On the ownership issue, the Office of the Personal Representative is working in close connection with the representatives of the Contact Group countries. In a recent letter to the Personal Representative, the Contact Group countries expressed the opinion that the two-phased ownership plan represented a good basis on which to proceed with the process. They also recognize the necessity for a gradual approach that takes into account the capabilities and clear desires of all the respective Parties.

Furthermore, subject to further periodical evaluation, the Contact Group countries support the opinion that the end of 2011 could be regarded as a milestone to aim at for the completion of the medium-term goal of Phase 1. Subsequently, given further improvements in regional stability and security, full responsibility for the implementation of the Agreement could be transferred to the Parties themselves in the following years, when the time is ripe and the political situation is considered favourable.

The Parties also confirmed that their countries were ready to continue taking on more responsibilities in the implementation of the Article IV Agreement, underlining the necessity to proceed step by step. In concrete terms, their reservations were related to technical and especially financial limitations.

In the course of the 43rd meeting of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission, which took place in Novi Sad, Serbia, on 3 and 4 November, the Parties agreed to the two-phase ownership plan proposed by the Personal Representative and to the recommendation of the Contact Group countries. They agreed that the plan and its step-by-step approach represent a good basis on which to proceed and approved an Action Plan for assumption of the new responsibilities.

The Personal Representative will continue working together with the Parties on the transferral of the new obligations.

The following thoughts are offered by way of a conclusion to the present report.

The Article IV Agreement is widely recognized as a success story, the implementation of which has given and continues to give the Parties the opportunity to develop transparency, confidence and friendship in the military arena.

The Article IV arms control experiment is a model for a regional solution and has so far been a unique regional success.

Although the southern European region is at present still witnessing critical developments in some fields, in particular in certain countries, its military stability can indisputably be regarded as solid and uncompromised. That this is the case is due not least to the effect of an arms control agreement that has proved its worth over the last 13 years, producing excellent results and contributing to the improvement of a military situation that can now no longer be compared to the situation in the late 1990s.

Today, likewise thanks to the successful implementation of the Article IV Agreement, the Parties are advancing, albeit at different speeds, towards full European or Euro-Atlantic integration. All of them have signed the EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement, with Croatia having already obtained candidate status, and all of them are in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program, with Croatia having been a member of NATO since April this year.

In this scenario, Article IV remains an invaluable system that must be safeguarded and supported by the international community as an example of an efficient and constructive approach to contributing to the solution of multilateral issues. Thanks to the Agreement, the southern European region has set an example in the field of post-conflict arms control and disarmament. There is no doubt that two of the main reasons why the Dayton Peace Accords, especially the arms control regime, have been so successful are, firstly, that the Parties had the political will to implement the Agreement and, secondly, that the international community stood behind the process and the Parties directly concerned were not left on their own.

In the longer term – waiting for full membership of the Parties to European or Euro-Atlantic structures, the results of discussions on the future of the CFE regime or other relevant developments – the Article IV Agreement will continue to play a useful role in the maintenance of military stability in South Eastern Europe.

On the subject of finances, the Office of the Personal Representative maintained its efficiency within the limitations of its budget, which has been reduced in the course of the last six years to approximately 60 per cent of its former size. The very fact that such tremendous achievements have been made on such a small budget confirms that the support provided by the OSCE represents a formidable investment for the community and reinforces the opinion that the strong and hitherto highly productive relations between the OSCE and the Parties should continue in existence for a reasonable period of time.

**REPORT BY THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE OSCE
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION**

(MC.GAL/12/09 of 28 November 2009)

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to start my report by thanking the Mediterranean Partners for their excellent contribution to the OSCE in 2009, which was marked by their unfailing engagement and stimulating debate, both in the context of the Mediterranean Contact Group and in the broader activities of the OSCE at the political level.

We have had a very intense year, full of lively debate and new and refreshing ideas. As I have mentioned, full credit goes to the Mediterranean Partners themselves, but also to Greece, which, as holder of the Chairmanship of the OSCE, continued supporting the work of this Group, and Lithuania, which has also started embarking on this adventure with enthusiasm and dedication.

We also commend the efforts of Professor Sotiris Roussos as Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for the Mediterranean Partners in 2009. His mandate will constitute the basis for further related type of activities and in 2010 we will take on board all the best achievements from this year.

And last but not least, the Secretariat, whose work continues to be the pillar of our dialogue. It has been a pleasure and an honour working with them and I wish them all the best in their respective institutional functions next year.

Work by the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2009 was based on four pillars. First of all, we have made every effort to ensure that we followed the OSCE's three-dimensional approach to security. Secondly, we have made it a point to take initiatives that had relevance to the Mediterranean region and the issues of importance to it. Our third guiding principle was that discussion had to be relevant also to the OSCE participating States. And finally, we believed our role was to be conducive to dialogue and fruitful exchanges of experiences and ideas.

With this in mind, we decided to hold seven meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2009. The meetings were very interactive and saw discussions and exchanges of ideas on a number of issues, including freedom of the media, action against terrorism, trafficking in human beings, the Alliance of Civilizations, economic and environmental activities, the politico-military dimension, tolerance and non-discrimination and the Union for the Mediterranean. Ideas were also exchanged with the representative in Vienna of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. Regular discussions and consultations were held on the use of the Partnership Fund. In line with previous similar initiatives, Morocco made a presentation on the future of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership.

Additionally, on 11 December, we will have the traditional joint meeting of the Contact Groups, which will give us an opportunity to discuss issues shared by the two Groups. While the agenda still needs to be finalized, also taking into account the outcome of the Athens meeting of the Ministerial Council, it is likely that we will discuss the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security: common challenges and threats, with a view to assessing the potential role of the Partners for Co-operation in the follow-up to the expected Ministerial decision on the future of the Corfu Process. The Partnership Fund may be the second item on the agenda.

The 2009 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will be held in Cairo on 14 and 15 December. It will be the seventh year in a row in which the Conference is hosted by a Mediterranean Partner, the fifth time in total by Egypt. The main theme of the Conference will be: The Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE: Co-operation Toward Enhanced Security and Stability. In line with the priorities outlined above, Kazakhstan worked to develop an agenda that touched on all three dimensions and on issues of topical importance. We believe that discussion of the politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean, implications for migration of the current economic and financial crisis, and prospects for OSCE-Mediterranean co-operation is indeed highly relevant and timely. In particular, migration is as much a burning issue for the Mediterranean as tolerance and non-discrimination, as is a discussion on the OSCE's *acquis* in the first dimension, and in particular its CSBM regime.

For the last few years, our annual conferences have seen much enhanced debate, and we have been able to compile long lists of proposals stemming from them. However, the follow-up mechanisms were less developed, partly because the lists of recommendations were so long as to make it impossible for any Chairmanship to follow them in detail. For this reason, this year we decided to streamline the outcome of the conference and place quality above quantity. After the Cairo conference we, as Chair of this Contact Group, plan to highlight the three most important and realistic proposals, which, with the help of the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Contact Group, will be assigned a high priority for follow-up next year.

I said that migration and tolerance and non-discrimination are arguably the most important issues in our dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. Indeed, we hear constant reports that manifestations of intolerance, racism and xenophobia are on the rise in many OSCE participating and partner States. We ourselves, as participating States, have recognized the magnitude of this threat, by appointing three personal representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on tolerance matters, and have held a long series of high-level conferences on this subject. Kazakhstan itself is planning a major high-level conference on a holistic approach to tolerance to be held in Astana during its OSCE Chairmanship in 2010.

For this reason, we considered it essential to organize a seminar on tolerance and non-discrimination for the Mediterranean Partners in Astana, in July, on the eve of another event of major importance for this subject, namely, the Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, hosted by H. E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The seminar was financed through a Kazakh contribution to the Partnership Fund, and touched upon promoting interethnic and interreligious dialogue and protecting the rights of labour migrants. It made a substantial contribution to the elaboration of the human dimension priorities of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, including a planned Chairmanship conference on tolerance to be hosted by Kazakhstan next year.

Somewhat linked to tolerance and non-discrimination is the question of media reporting on certain issues and responsible journalism. I will not enter here into the details of the question of balancing the need to safeguard freedom of the media and of expression against the need to avoid fostering a sense of exclusion and marginalization by certain communities, be they minority or migrant ones. But I will stress that this is an issue to which there are no easy solutions. Media self-regulation is one of the most effective answers to the problem. This is certainly what emerged from our seminar held in Vienna in June, organized by the office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, which Kazakhstan supported wholeheartedly. Eleven international experts from the entire OSCE region and from the region of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners presented and discussed various forms of media self-regulation. The event also raised awareness about the essential role that responsible journalism plays in developing independent media. Media professionals explained and intensively debated the merits of self-regulation, including editorial independence, correction of mistakes, complaints and enhancement of quality and professionalism.

Also in the first dimension, a workshop on an integrated approach to supply chain security for the Mediterranean region will be held in Valletta, Malta, just a few days from now. It will bring together public and private experts from OSCE Mediterranean participating States and Partners for Co-operation, building on OSCE commitments on enhancing container security (MC.DEC/9/04 and MC.DEC/6/05). The participants will be senior officials and experts from governments, businesses and industry, as well as relevant international structures, and the intention will be to facilitate dialogue, networking, exchange of experiences and public-private partnerships. The aim is to help gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the supply chain and related security issues, including vulnerabilities and threats. The ultimate goal is to increase our effectiveness in tackling terrorism, while at the same time continuing to facilitate legitimate trade and transport. This is another project that was financed through the Partnership Fund, and to which Kazakhstan contributed.

I have been mentioning the Partnership Fund as the source of financing of many events today. This is the best proof that the participating States were right in considering it a good way to promote a greater engagement of the Partners for Co-operation in the Organization. To continue building on this year's, and last year's, achievements, Kazakhstan has launched a process that hopefully will reap results in both the short and also the medium terms. Earlier, I mentioned the large number of proposals we have identified in the past. Although unmanageable in its entirety, the list of proposals still deserved our due attention. Consequently, together with the Mediterranean Partners, we have now been able to identify three key areas in which we believe our work could be prioritized, with a view to introducing a few targeted and well-thought-out projects. These areas are: the management of water resources and action to counter desertification; border security and management; and human resources, more specifically creating the opportunity for sponsored experiences in an OSCE executive structure for young professionals (diplomats) from the Mediterranean Partner countries.

With the help of the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, at this time next year, we will be hearing another enthusiastic report on the use of this important tool.

Thank you.

**REPORT BY THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN
PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION TO THE ATHENS MEETING OF
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE WORK WITH THE ASIAN
PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION IN 2009**

(MC.GAL/11/09 of 27 November 2009)

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the Asian Partners for Co-operation for their excellent work and support throughout the year. Indeed, 2009 has been a year dense with events and innovation for our Contact Group, in which many important new initiatives were taken.

Special credit goes first of all to Greece for its decision to appoint Mr. Theodore Kotsonis as Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Asian Partners for Co-operation. His work and role have been important for our Group, and we all look forward to his report and his ideas on how to strengthen our dialogue further. I hope that the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship will continue this innovative approach next year.

The work of the Asian Contact Group has seen an important change in 2009, giving our Asian Partners full ownership of the debate. Five meetings were held in 2009, which were marked by increased interaction and debate, thanks to the presentations made by the Asian Partners at each of these meetings.

We started with our meeting in February, in which Afghanistan made a presentation on border security and management and the upcoming presidential elections. The briefing conducted by Ambassador Shoogufan was indeed instrumental in allowing our Permanent Council in April to adopt its Decision No. 891 on the deployment of an election support team for the third time in its history. The team has now successfully completed its assignment. Although no longer in the Troika next year, Finland will continue to be an active promoter of the OSCE's support to Afghanistan in the future.

At our second meeting, in May, Japan led a discussion on human security and democratic institution-building, and in this connection invited a special speaker, Mr. Kazuo Tase, Chief of the Human Security Unit, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The discussion centred on the work of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, and we learned that the Fund aims at integrating the responses by international organizations, central and local governments and civil society. Many existing OSCE activities were also highlighted as having particular relevance to human security.

The follow-up to the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference, including on measures to promote the interests of landlocked countries as well as development of democratic governance indicators, was the subject of a discussion led by Mongolia at our July meeting. Ambassador Enkhsaikhan informed us of Mongolia's continued policy of structural

prevention, focusing on promoting mutual confidence with and between its two immediate neighbours, which included presenting to its immediate neighbours a draft trilateral treaty that would define its nuclear-weapon-free status. He also brought to our attention the fact that Mongolia has taken a decision to set up an international think-tank to strengthen the analytical capacity to address the challenges of landlocked countries and their greater integration into regional and global trading systems. Our Group also found inspiration in Mongolia's experience in drawing up national democratic governance indicators.

In September, Korea led discussions in the Contact Group on the subject of analyzing North Korea's motives and considering how the international community, including the "Five Parties", should respond. The participants stressed that North Korea must be denuclearized in a complete and verifiable manner; that relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions should be faithfully and effectively implemented; and that the North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved through diplomatic means within the framework of the Six-Party Talks. The importance of bringing North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks, as well as of maintaining co-operation among the Five Parties, was also emphasized. And it was made clear that bilateral contact between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States or any other country is not a substitute for the Six-Party Talks.

Thailand took the lead at our last meeting, in November, with a discussion on co-operation between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum. After providing a useful overview of the nature and activities of the ARF, Ambassador Phetcharatana stressed his country's determination to strengthen relations between the ARF and the OSCE, especially on matters related to confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy. This viewpoint was welcomed and supported by the Contact Group. The meeting was further enriched by a discussion with Ambassador Potts of Australia on the possibilities for co-operation and strengthening of relations between Australia and the OSCE, which also touched on the topic of the Asia-Pacific regional security architecture. In the discussions that followed the presentation, the participants in the Contact Group meeting encouraged Australia to pursue closer relations with the OSCE.

Finally, on 11 December, we will have the traditional joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups, which will give us an opportunity to discuss issues that are shared by the two groups. In particular, we will discuss the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security from the point of view of the Partners. This discussion will give us an opportunity to lay the foundations for our future work, which is particularly important in light of the decision that is expected to be taken here in Athens on the future of the Corfu Process. In addition, the joint meeting will also discuss the current state of the Partnership Fund and a way forward.

OSCE-Japan Conference. As usual, the highlight of the year was the annual conference with the Asian Partners, which this year was hosted by Japan in Tokyo on 10 and 11 June. The main theme was "Sharing knowledge and experiences between the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation to address common challenges". The Conference focused on three key issues: enhancing confidence-building through military transparency; energy security dialogue; and civil society development, including the media.

The discussions on enhancing confidence-building took place against the backdrop of the recent nuclear and missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, leading some speakers to note that the DPRK risked bringing about an escalation of tension and an

undesirable arms race, and therefore multilateral co-operation should be strengthened rather than weakened. Furthermore, while issues such as military transparency and freedom of the media had long been hallmarks of the OSCE, energy security was a relatively new topic for the Organization. There was a clear benefit in hearing about the experience of the Asian Partners, as energy security was a global issue, and solutions needed to be global in scope. The OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners also agreed on the need to continue promoting freedom of the media as a fundamental ingredient in transparent, peaceful and modern societies.

Following up on similar initiatives in 2007 and 2008, Finland, together with Belgium, sponsored a Meeting on Multilateral Security Co-operation in Northeast Asia and the Relevance of OSCE Experience, which took place in Vienna on 23 and 24 April. It was financed through the Partnership Fund, and was jointly organized by the Austrian Centre for International Studies and the Finnish Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group. Twenty-three participants took part in the Meeting, from the participating States, the Asian Partners and countries of the Six-Party Talks. The Meeting emphasized aspects of CSCE/OSCE experience, such as the importance of agreed guiding principles, dialogue on an equal footing and confidence-building, and the need for some form of human dimension, such as people-to-people contacts. This experience by the OSCE was considered especially useful for a multilateral security co-operation mechanism in Northeast Asia, with the necessary adjustments to reflect the different regional realities.

One further initiative was taken by Mongolia from 20 to 24 April, when it organized a Conference in Ulaanbaatar on the Present and Future Security Environment in Northeast and Central Asia: Ulaanbaatar as a New Helsinki? The Conference focused on issues such as challenges for security and confidence-building in Central and East Asia, the European examples of neutrality/security and confidence-building measures, and security and security co-operation in Asia through dialogue. The CSCE/OSCE model was presented as an example for a possible security architecture in Asia. Finland participated and provided a recollection of the negotiations that led to the signature of the Helsinki Final Act.

Partnership Fund. Finland, as one of the Troika members that initially promoted establishment of the Fund, continued supporting it. Part of the Finnish contribution of 250,000 euros was used to finance an election assistance project for the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan, which was jointly implemented by the ODIHR and the Secretariat's External Co-operation Section, and the above-mentioned Meeting on Multilateral Security Co-operation in Northeast Asia and the Relevance of OSCE Experience. Finland also sponsored the participation by a representative of Mongolia's National Census Bureau in the ODIHR's expert meeting on population registration that took place in Vienna on 30 and 31 March, that of a Mongolian expert in the OSCE/WCO Integrity Development Seminar held in Astana on 5 and 6 May 2009, and that of the representatives from Afghanistan and Mongolia in the 2009 OSCE-Japan Conference.

Pursuant to the adoption of Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 902 and 903, for the first time the Partnership Fund will be used in 2010 to finance events held in the territory of a Partner for Co-operation. In January 2010, a Workshop on Combating Illicit Crop Cultivation and Enhancing Border Security and Management: Thailand as a Case Study will be held in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, and in February 2010, an International Expert Workshop on Combating Modern Slavery: National, Regional and International Experiences will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Finland fully supported the process of adopting both

decisions, and will be providing financial contributions for the events. Both events will be held in the format of a 2010 Chairmanship event.

In conclusion, allow me to stress once again that the year 2009 has been a year of considerable innovation for the Asian Partners. As a result, our dialogue has focused strongly on Asia as a region, and has allowed the participating States and the Asian Partners to have frank and informative debates on the many issues that affect security in both our regions, many of which have a global impact on security. My gratitude goes to the Asian Partners first and foremost, but also to the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE for its unstinting and valuable support throughout the year and to the OSCE Secretary General and the External Co-operation Section, as usual the backbone of our work. The dynamic co-operation between the Asian Partners and the OSCE could serve as a model for OSCE's activities in many areas. I wish every success to the incoming Greek Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group under the guidance of the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship.

Thank you.