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**Statement by the
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Malta**

The Hon. Dr. Anthony Borg

**At the Seventh OSCE Summit
Astana**

1st December 2010

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by expressing the sincere appreciation of my delegation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for its warm hospitality and for the efficient organization of this Summit.

I also wish to convey my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for its efforts at the helm of our Organization and to congratulate it for being the first participating State from Central Asia to chair this Organization and for hosting the first OSCE Summit in this region.

Malta naturally fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I nevertheless wish to make a few additional remarks from a national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

As we mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris, the first OSCE Summit in 11 years comes at an important juncture in the development of a 'Europe whole and free'. Our meeting provides us with an opportunity to reaffirm all our principles and commitments and to identify our shared challenges and priorities so as to chart a course for the future. But we need a vision. We believe that the development of a security community in the OSCE region presents us with such a vision. It is vision that inspires. Without vision, people perish and Organizations die.

Over the last two decades in particular, we have witnessed historic changes that have transformed the face of our continent. We have put old divisions in Europe behind us and opened up the prospect of a new era of peace. We should take pride at what we have achieved since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act and we should celebrate the intimate contribution of the CSCE/OSCE in this process. The destiny of the OSCE has been intertwined with most if not all of these changes. In fact, the OSCE has responded to change, it has influenced change and it has been an agent for change. My Government firmly believes that it must remain so.

At the same time, one cannot but help feel that we are at the dawn of yet another historic juncture in the relations between States in the OSCE region. Participating States have recognized just how much still needs to be done to fully accomplish the vision of a 'Europe whole and free'. This vision finds itself challenged on a number of fronts both from within and from outside the OSCE region.

Mr Chairman,

In many ways, ours is an uncomfortably unprecedented age. It is clear that fresh thinking and new approaches to security are required. Climate change, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, organized crime, migration, as well as the global economic downturn are among many of today's most pressing challenges. They are global in nature and scope and therefore require global solutions. European security is not impervious to these challenges and, as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE has a specific role to play in effectively tackling them in so far as the OSCE region is concerned.

Simultaneously, a number of more classic threats to peace and security remain in our region. On more than one occasion since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act, our deepest hopes of a 'Europe whole and free' have been brutally confronted by the harsh realities of conflict. The persistence of the protracted conflicts remains a serious threat to stability in the OSCE region.

Differing interpretations have also emerged on OSCE principles and commitments, including in the human dimension which remains at the heart of the comprehensive concept of security of the OSCE. We unreservedly reiterate our commitment to the full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law and support all efforts to strengthen their implementation throughout the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last several months, the OSCE has provided a valuable forum within which participating States have discussed new and existing challenges facing the OSCE region, particularly through the Corfu Process, and have identified issues that will need to be addressed with renewed determination. As the efforts of the OSCE with Afghanistan also clearly demonstrate, a necessary part of our overall effort is to work with adjacent regions, including the Mediterranean, to address security challenges that undoubtedly also affect security in the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairman,

The linkage between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean is today a recognized and accepted principle of this Organization – one which has increasingly been applied to other adjacent regions. In our interconnected world, it is a principle that in many ways assumes even more relevance today.

Over the years, Malta has consistently underscored the need for the OSCE to take more fully into account concerns and challenges in the Mediterranean. As a European and Mediterranean State at the southernmost part of the OSCE region, Malta is particularly sensitive to the need to establish more coherent and effective links between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. A more structured dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners, with better follow-up on matters of shared concern such as migration, intolerance and extremism, human trafficking, terrorism and climate change, would benefit both the OSCE region and the Partners themselves. In this respect, the OSCE Mediterranean Conference held in Malta in October succeeded in drawing attention to some of these issues. We also believe the OSCE should reach out to other Mediterranean States to export its values and experiences and encourage them to become OSCE Partners. We should be in no doubt that if we ignore the Mediterranean region, we will do so at our risk and peril and weak engagement with the Mediterranean Partners on issues of common concern will in the long run fail our common security.

In reaffirming our shared principles and commitments, it is essential that the Summit Final Document reiterates the link between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean agreed in Helsinki 35 years ago and recognizes the importance of working more closely with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. We can only have comprehensive security in the OSCE region if ultimately ways are found of also securing the OSCE neighbourhood.

The OSCE cannot be expected to do this on its own and it will also require a lead contribution by other actors including the European Union and NATO. We believe that the Platform for Cooperative Security agreed at the last Summit in Istanbul in 1999 provides the right framework in which cooperation and synergies could be developed between the OSCE and other actors. We however remain of the view that for this to be truly effective, the Platform should not be restricted solely to Organizations and actors from the OSCE region but, when appropriate, should reach out to regional and sub-regional actors from outside.

Mr. Chairman,

We all face a future with a mixture of apprehension but also hope. Apprehension resulting from the many complex challenges before us, and hope because our dialogue over the last 18 months has begun a process of rebuilding trust and confidence among participating States and has shown a renewed willingness and determination to work in concert to address them. The times ahead will be challenging but as we move into a more dynamic and forward-looking phase of our work, we hope that our cooperative efforts will lead to enhanced security for our entire continent. We face the future fully aware of how much still needs to be done, strengthened by what has already been achieved, and hopeful that a 'Europe whole and free' can be achieved.