

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
Opening Session

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The notion of security has become so broad and encompassing that it requires the most challenging effort to apply the possible comprehensive approach. I guess I would not be revealing a big secret that even within political-military alliances at times there are serious differences when it comes to the issue of prioritization of security concerns. Thus, the list of security concerns and perceptions tends to be rather diverse. And our primary task should continuously be the creation of a possible common ground in different approaches, different assessments.

It means that we need to select the right ingredients, guess the right proportions, mix them right in time and, when it's ready, make it palatable to different liking. Is it an attainable task? Very difficult to say. Is it worth to try? Unquestionably yes.

What are the primary problems hovering over us? Let me allude to some of them:

-We should try to find ways how to dispel the security concerns or maybe perceptions of security concerns of one side when the other one makes legitimate decisions and takes actions to provide for its own, and not only, security.

-We should try to understand the real and well justified security assessments of an individual sovereign state and not to succumb to the whim of an opponent expressed in a way of allied solidarity.

-We need to ask ourselves the honest question: How well it serves the key principle of indivisibility of security when a disagreement over a large defense initiative to tackle an anticipated security threat in a relatively remote perspective is linked to other arms control issues and precludes the highly desirable progress?

And an additional thought: What could be done to convince a fellow country not to make the unnecessarily overfed defense budget a national goal, and thus jeopardize the security of a whole region and beyond?

We always held the opinion that the best way to deal with security issues is to have open, continuous, trustful dialogue. That there is a need to involve, engage and include each and everyone who has legitimate stake in any kind of security arrangement.

There is also necessity to develop meaningful cooperation and interaction between different organizations and structures dealing with security agenda. We strongly believe that the membership to different politico-military organizations is not in any way an obstacle to develop

also functional partnership relations across the boundaries of those organizations. This type of multidimensional action, to the possible extent inclusion and restraint from any policy that could be perceived as an attempt of exclusion will hopefully put us firmly on the path leading to a meaningful security community.