

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON THE REFORM OF THE OSCE TO THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE, I have the honour to report to you on its activities in 2004.

The Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE met for the first time on 28 May 2004. As a first step, I initiated a general debate on the reform of the Organization and invited the participating States and the OSCE institutions to put forward considerations and make concrete proposals. As a result, a number of contributions were received both in writing and orally.

Following discussions on these initial contributions, I identified two subjects on which I felt a consensus could be achieved: the role of the OSCE Secretary General and the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

A draft decision on clarifying and strengthening the role of the Secretary General was prepared and was agreed in general terms by the participants in the discussions in the Working Group. I therefore proposed its adoption by the Ministerial Council, and am gratified that it was adopted at the Sofia meeting of the Ministerial Council.

Our objective regarding the Rules of Procedure was to reflect in a consolidated document the current practice of the Organization. The document submitted for examination in the Preparatory Committee (MC.DD/18/04 of 26 November 2004) represented a clear reflection of the current practice and was intended as a document of reference for all delegations. The adoption of the Rules of Procedure would require a decision on the Senior Council and a draft decision in this respect was circulated, but was not adopted (MC.DD/22/04 of 30 November 2004).

I wish to express my appreciation for the valuable assistance that I received from the Secretariat and the Secretary General in the work of the Working Group.

The considerations and proposals put forward during the sessions of the Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE deserve further consideration. I therefore propose that the Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE should continue its activities, focusing on strengthening the role of the OSCE and improving its functions in order to make it more efficient and relevant to the participating States.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for the confidence you placed in me by inviting me to chair the Working Group.

Yours sincerely,

Liviu Bota  
Ambassador  
Chairperson of the Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE