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

**The Hon. Dr. Anthony Borg**

**At the Seventeenth OSCE Ministerial Council  
Athens**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

As we meet at the steps of the Parthenon, allow me to warmly congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of our Organisation. I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Greek authorities for their generous hospitality. We are pleased to be meeting in the historic city of Athens that has contributed greatly to European culture and politics. I am sure that the outcome of this Ministerial Council will add to this rich heritage.

Malta naturally aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

A glance at the European political and security landscape quickly reveals just how much has been achieved in the last thirty years. We have only to look back to 1975 to see how far we have come in overcoming the considerable aura of mistrust between the so-called "east" and "west". At the same time, so much more needs to be done to rebuild trust and confidence between different parts of the OSCE region. The contribution of the OSCE to the construction of a stable and secure Europe should not be understated. Likewise, the place of the OSCE at the heart of the current dialogue on European security should not be called into question.

Mr. Chairman,

This week marks the twentieth anniversary of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting in Malta in December 1989 when the Cold War was buried, to quote the then Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze "in the stormy waters off the island of Malta".

The political will shown then in reducing tension should not be treated as a mere solitary event of history - but as a continuing commitment towards peace on both hard and soft security issues.

Malta firmly believes that the 1989 spirit of reconciliation so eloquently demonstrated in the Malta Summit should be revived and strengthened. The Corfu` process is a step in the right direction and we support the continuation of this dialogue within the OSCE. We should never succumb to prejudices or preconceived attitudes and ideas as we strive to preserve peace.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the eminent philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote that states must have mutual understandings to avoid war, which he termed a "covenant of peace", as opposed to a *pactum pacis*, a treaty of peace. In Kant's thinking, the former would *eliminate* war, while the latter merely put an end to *one* war. Our view

is that the Corfu Process is a means to an end that could, over time, lead to a “covenant of peace” among the participating States.

Malta supports the OSCE's continued efforts in the politico-military dimension. This dimension brings together the political aspect with the military aspect. It is therefore imperative that all participating States continue to fully apply their freely undertaken commitments. We continue to support the OSCE's vital work on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the control thereof as well as on stockpiles of conventional ammunition. Malta is contributing to this process by sending, at the request of the OSCE, Maltese personnel for inspections in the Balkan region as part of the OSCE's activities under Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accord.

Mr. Chairman,

The past twelve months have been marked by renewed interest in the OSCE's Economic and Environmental dimension as the recent economic downturn takes its course and rising concerns on the effects of climate change play themselves out. Malta considers energy security as an important aspect of the security debate. Countries of supply, transit, and destination must do more to work in harmony to ensure stable supplies of energy on the European continent. As an island, Malta faces its own energy security challenges which continue to be addressed by my Government. We thus welcome and support further OSCE engagement in this area.

Similarly, we support proposals for the OSCE to find its own niche in the climate change debate. This, we believe, lies in the implications to security that arise from our changing climate – implications that vary from region to region and that are not always easy to anticipate. This dimension of security will increase in relevance in the years to come and so we urge all participating States to support a role for the OSCE in this important area.

This year the Greek Chairmanship has dedicated the Economic and Environmental Forum to the theme of **migration**. The illegal movement of people across borders, particularly in large numbers, presents an enormous challenge with clear security implications. Illegal migration continues to affect Malta and the wider Mediterranean in a very intimate way and the negative aspects of this phenomenon are clear for all to see. In our view, the comprehensive approach to security of the OSCE and the cross-dimensional characteristics of migration make the Organization well-suited to address this phenomenon. The OSCE also provides a platform to engage with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation on an issue which is also of particular consequence to them.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Member State of the European Union, located in the Mediterranean and on the geographical periphery of the OSCE region, Malta is particularly sensitive to

threats and challenges from regions adjacent to the OSCE, particularly to its south. As a small Mediterranean participating State, Malta is affected by all major and most minor events in our region. In a few days, Malta will host an Expert Workshop on Supply Chain Security, to which all the Mediterranean participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation have been invited. I would like to thank the Anti-Terrorism Unit for its efforts in realising this workshop.

Malta feels that the link between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean is as an undisputed principle. For this reason, we would like to see our Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation more involved in our dialogue on European security when appropriate. The annual Mediterranean Seminar in 2010 could also usefully focus on the unfolding the dialogue on European security from a Mediterranean perspective and consider themes relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean security nexus. If the participating States and Partners for Cooperation agree, Malta would be prepared to host the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar during 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Since June 2008, a new dialogue was initiated in the OSCE on European Security. The Greek Chairmanship has taken brave steps to take this debate forward, including through the organization of the informal OSCE Ministers' meeting in Corfu last June. Since then, the Chairmanship has skilfully carried out the Ministers' mandate in Vienna by holding weekly meetings on a variety of issues.

As I stated in Corfu, Malta views this process as an opportunity to further strengthen security on our continent through the OSCE. Europe faces a combination of both old as well as previously unexperienced challenges. Organized crime, including trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings, illegal migration, terrorism, security risks from water and energy shortages are just a few of the challenges facing the OSCE region. The dialogue that must now be taken forward is indeed timely and we support all efforts towards the creation of a "Helsinki Plus".

Mr. Chairman,

This year, Europe is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the establishment of a Europe whole and free. We in Malta are proud to have contributed to that process. But we cannot live nostalgically in the past; which is why we are adamantly in favour of a new drive towards strengthening security and cooperation within the OSCE.

Since the beginning of 2009, under the Greek Chairmanship's able leadership, all of us have been sailing to Athens. The sea has not always been calm but we have finally arrived at the port of Piraeus and we can see the rich fruit of the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship. There can be no doubt that the Chairmanship's efforts

have revitalised the OSCE and begun a dynamic process in which we are also committing to strengthen our common security

As the baton passes from one Chairmanship to another, we wish Kazakhstan every success in its challenging tasks ahead. We also augur that the Corfu Process will continue to move forward and to rebuild the much needed trust among the participating States. In the last twenty years, change has transformed the face of our continent. The destiny of the OSCE has in fact been intertwined with most, if not all, of these changes. The OSCE has responded to change, it has influenced change and it has been an agent of change. We feel that it must remain so.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.