



Translation

**Opening Session of the Annual Security Review Conference, 25 June 2003**  
**National Statement of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Mr Chairman, dear colleagues,

- ◆ Thank you very much for the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the German delegation at this first Annual Security Review Conference. We listened with great interest to the introductory contributions which gave us plenty of food for thought about the future and the possibilities of the OSCE in the European security landscape.
- ◆ The Presidency of the European Union has already underlined the significance of the OSCE for a stable Europe which is growing ever larger. Of course, the OSCE has to redefine its role in a changing European security landscape. But in its almost thirty-year history, the OSCE (or the CSCE) has never been an unchangeable colossus set in stone. It has changed dramatically over the decades; and its ability to do so was its very strength. It was therefore able to continually shift its focus to a changing international environment and to new challenges.
- ◆ That is not to say that the OSCE had to reinvent itself each time the coordinates changed. The OSCE retains the mission of focusing with determination and energy on the frozen conflicts in the OSCE Area. But it also has to find answers to new questions and in new situations. Thus alongside the conflicts between and within states, new challenges to our security have now emerged: crossborder threats such as terrorism, crime, trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings. The OSCE has a set of institutions and instruments which enable it to act flexibly, directly and rapidly. It was with attention and respect that we followed the efforts of the Police Advisor to establish new capabilities in the OSCE, which are tailor-made to meeting the challenge of crossborder crime. We support this step. Initial moves have already been made for the sphere of terrorism at an institutional level. A clear and acute need for new capabilities and competences has also emerged in the sphere of border management in the OSCE Area. We support efforts to strengthen the

institutional support provided to border management in the organisation. They should not be questioned as such.

- ◆ Mr Chairman, an essential pillar of OSCE scope for action and expertise is its presence in the field. The 19 missions and offices of the OSCE are at the center of the organisation's ability to engage in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-crisis rehabilitation. They are also part of the role the OSCE can play in regional conflict prevention and in regional crises, which we believe is exceedingly important. Therefore, we consider the field competence to be a decisive instrument and see regional conflict prevention as a central task for security and stability in the entire OSCE Area. These instruments can be further developed, refined and adapted to local circumstances. They should not be questioned as such.
  
- ◆ In its response to the new challenges the OSCE can rely upon its impressive acquis of norms, rules and regulations built up over the almost thirty years of its history. This acquis of the OSCE has literally created a security network. The 1999 Vienna Document, the Code of Conduct and the Open Skies Treaty that is now open to all OSCE countries have contributed to confidence-building and security. With the Adapted CFE Treaty which awaits ratification, the structures dating from the time of the Cold War have been overcome. With the SALW document we have found a way of strengthening security in a very practical way that is clear to the population. Far beyond the political and military context, the normative acquis in the Human Dimension has, for example, also served to stabilize peace and prevent conflicts.
  
- ◆ After several years of absence from Vienna, Mr Chairman, for me personally this conference is an opportunity to acquaint myself with the increased range of challenges which the OSCE has to face. I am looking forward to the discussion with all of you and I appreciate this opportunity to evaluate together with you where we see tomorrow's challenges.

Thank you.