



STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS, MR. SPYROS ATTAS, TO THE
2004 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR ON “ADDRESSING THREATS TO SECURITY
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: INTERACTION BETWEEN THE OSCE AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION”, SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT, 18-
19 NOVEMBER 2004.

Mr. Moderator,
Distinguished delegates,

I wish at the outset to express our deep gratitude to the Egyptian authorities for giving us the opportunity to meet in this wonderful venue as well as for their warm and generous hospitality.

Mr. Moderator,

We meet again with our Mediterranean partners amidst a new situation in the wider Middle – East, following the passing away of the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat and the continuing war in Irak.

It is more than evident that we share similar interests as well as concerns with our neighbours and we should as an organization work together with them in order to meet the new and old common challenges facing us.

The “OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the XXI Century” in conjunction with the PC.DEC/571 have given new impetus for further enhancing our cooperation. The various proposals for additional fields of co-operation and interaction for the purpose of enhancing mutual security, while introducing the topic of the voluntary implementation of OSCE norms and principles by the Partners for Co-operation, will undoubtedly serve as a means of further interaction with the OSCE, and hopefully between the Partners themselves.

In identifying potential fields of cooperation in security we should be guided by the cross dimensional comprehensive security model which is the most striking feature of the OSCE and its greatest strength.

OSCE experience shows the overriding importance and the benefits of continuous dialogue, the value of developing confidence and security building measures as well as the need for serious engagement in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy.

In order for our efforts to bear fruit, the exercise of strong political will, is required based on mutual confidence between the parties, in a secure environment.

The best guidance, however, the OSCE can offer in assisting the Partners in their efforts is to insist in the strict adherence by its participating States to the international law norms and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

In our strive to create an environment conducive to dialogue and confidence we should never lose sight of the fact that peace and stability in the Mediterranean region will constantly be jeopardized and never be permanent if just, comprehensive and lasting solutions to long standing regional problems are not found. These are, namely, the Middle-East and the Cyprus problems, the latter one involving participating States of the OSCE. Needless to say that the solutions to these problems must be based on the principles and norms of international law and enjoy the acceptance as well as serve the genuine interests of the people concerned.

Since the three dimensions of the European Union's Barcelona process and the OSCE's three dimensions roughly correspond to each other, a degree of complementarity and interrelation should be developed concerning the activities of the EU and the OSCE. NATO could also involve OSCE institutions and participating states in activities within the framework of its Mediterranean dialogue.

We are confident that the existing dialogue with our Mediterranean Partners will be further developed and intensified in a substantive and qualitative fashion.

My country feels confident that through the excellent relations it enjoys with its Arab and Israeli neighbors and in its capacity as a member of the EU will act as a bridge between the EU as well as between the OSCE and its Partners.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.