

PC.DEL/571/08  
3 July 2008

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY AT WORKING SESSION II OF THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 1 and 2 July 2008

Allow me first of all to thank the two introductory speakers for providing us with valuable starting points for our discussion. Both speakers commented on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty). It is imperative that the stability, transparency and predictability that the CFE regime has thus far guaranteed for all States Parties in a balanced manner be preserved. Our goal remains the preservation of the CFE regime and the entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty at the earliest opportunity.

Arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) are inextricably linked to our security. The concept of comprehensive, co-operative security that takes into account the interests of all those involved is in our view indispensable.

The OSCE participating States have — in the form of the existing *acquis* — created a regional framework for arms control that has made a decisive contribution to guaranteeing peace and security since the end of the Cold War. Over the last few decades regional confidence building has proven to be a success in Europe. A feeling of confidence that has taken hold over decades has led to solid, verifiable disarmament and arms control measures, which have resulted in a dramatic reduction in military capabilities across Europe. For all of us it is important that the agreed confidence-building measures should exist not only on paper but that they should also be practically implemented. Moreover, their implementation must be constantly verified and, where necessary, improved.

In this way, the security landscape within the OSCE area has continued to develop since the adoption of the various agreements and documents that make up the *acquis*.

Let me illustrate this using two examples:

- As a result of successful disarmament and arms control initiatives, the CFE Treaty, the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Open Skies are today concerned with military capabilities that are far below the respective thresholds. Among other instruments, the adapted CFE Treaty provides for adaptations to the altered security landscape, but we also believe that there should be a discussion regarding the adaptation of the threshold values set out in the Vienna Document.

- Recent years have seen an increase in asymmetrical threats linked, for example, to international terrorism and to advances in the area of military technology as regards weapons systems and formations.

These new developments do not however mean that the current arms control acquis has become superfluous. On the contrary; it continues as before to provide the basis from which we can proceed with the updating, adaptation and necessary further development of arms control agreements.

By themselves, the further development and transformation of the OSCE acquis will not turn the OSCE region into a “place of joy and happiness”. Here I agree with Ms. Alyson Bailes. Rather, in each individual case the updatings and further developments must be preceded in the political context of arms control by serious examination and discussions taking into account the security interests of the OSCE participating States. The special meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation on Existing and Future Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the OSCE Area held in October 2007 has imparted important impulses in this direction, which we ought now to further develop.