

**OSCE Ministerial Council on 4 - 5 December 2006  
in Brussels.**

**Statement by Denmark delivered by State Secretary, Ambassador  
Michael Zilmer-Johns.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**First let me extend a warm welcome to the Republic of Montenegro as the newest member of our Organisation.**

**I would also like to express my full support for the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Denmark is a firm believer in the OSCE, its cooperative and comprehensive security concept and in the commitments, we have all undertaken. Together, we must build on what we have already achieved. We have to make sure that the OSCE is constantly fit and in shape to meet new challenges. Facing new developments, we must strengthen, not relax, our determination to work together on the basis of common values and commitments.**

**Therefore, Denmark welcomes the agreement reached on a number of practical measures to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE. These include decisions to**

**further improve the consultative process and to ensure better coordination, more openness and full transparency, for instance with regard to recruitment and appointments. We also support the decision to continue deliberations on providing the OSCE with legal status. With these important steps, we have reached the goals, which we set ourselves when we met in Ljubljana this time last year and adopted the so-called “road map”.**

**Having come to a successful conclusion of several years of work, Denmark believes that the issue of reform should no longer dominate our agenda. We must now devote renewed efforts to the substantive and core work of our organisation which is: conflict prevention and resolution, protection of human rights and promotion of democratic development in the OSCE area.**

**Mr Chairman,**

**At this occasion, I should like to express my Government’s appreciation of the significance and excellent performance of the institutions, including ODIHR, in enhancing the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We have every confidence in the professionalism and impartiality of the institutions. In particular, we greatly value the work ODIHR, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly, is doing in the crucial area of election observation, where the OSCE has become a world leader.**

**To further strengthen our election activities, Denmark supports the development of new supplementary commitments on elections as outlined in ODIHR’s recent report “Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation”. We also welcome efforts to ensure more effective follow up of the recommendations of ODIHR.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Human rights defenders play an important role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. Regrettably, this essential work is not always without personal risk. We appreciate and support the work of these people to protect the rights of others and call on all participating States to protect the rights of human rights defenders. We consider that the OSCE has an important role to play in this regard and would like to see this role intensified.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Denmark has been a member of the UN Security Council during the past two years. Stepping up the international cooperation in the fight against terrorism has been one of our key priorities. As Chairman of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee, Denmark has put increased emphasis on strengthening cooperation between this Committee and regional organisations to ensure a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. It was therefore a particular pleasure for us to host an OSCE roundtable in July this year where practitioners from regional and sub-regional organisations could share experience in this regard. Regional organisations can make valuable contributions to the fight against terrorism, as confirmed by the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in September. This is an area where the OSCE already has built considerable experience and has proved its potential to help member states implement their international obligations.**

**In this context, we as Governments should be reminded of our obligation to ensure that all measures to counter terrorism are undertaken with full respect for**

**the rule of law and in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights.**

**Denmark is looking forward to chair the FSC next year and to join Canada, Cyprus and Croatia in the extended troika in four weeks time. We will contribute actively to the important work that is taking place in the politico-military dimension. Together with partners, we intend to continue the ongoing work to implement the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. We consider this long-term work to be of high importance. We are also dedicated to the valuable contribution, which the FSC can provide in the fight against terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Let me briefly turn to some regional issues.**

**Denmark reiterates its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. We urge that the conflict resolution process remains peaceful. We noted with profound concern the deterioration of the situation this autumn, including through unrelated and disproportionate measures. It is the responsibility of all parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from further provocative actions. Recent attempts to deescalate the tension are most welcome and we hope these steps will be reciprocated.**

**In Kosovo, the OSCE has since 1999 –as part of UNMIK — played an important role in reconstruction and development of a functional and multiethnic society. The OSCE will continue to play an important role in the future international**

**set-up in Kosovo following the status agreement, particularly through its field offices and its work to strengthen human and minority rights, decentralisation and local administrative capacity. In order for the OSCE-mission to make an effective contribution, we need to agree on a direct interface between the future OMIK and the new international set-up. Co-ordination, co-operation and seamless exchange of information among the international actors will be key to a successful implementation of the status agreement.**

**As regards the Transnistria conflict, positive developments have indeed been rare this past year. Denmark remains convinced that it is high time to implement fully the CFE commitments made at the Istanbul Summit in 1999 and that this could be a breakthrough.**

**Mr, Chairman,**

**For exactly the same reasons as given by Italy a moment ago Denmark welcomes the bid by Kazakhstan to chair the OSCE. We consider this a sign of commitment to the shared values of this Organisation.**

**In closing, I would like to thank our Chairman-in-Office Karel de Gucht for all his efforts over the past year. Leading a large and diverse organisation is an enormous challenge and you have lived up to our high expectations. Congratulations on a job well done. I would also like to assure the incoming Chairman Miguel Angel Moratinos of our full support and cooperation for the year to come.**

Thank you.