

## Response to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania H.E. Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas

As delivered by Ambassador Dr. György Molnár to the Permanent Council 22 October 2009

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Minister Ušackas, first of all, I would like to emphasize how much we appreciate your comprehensive address to the Permanent Council sharing with us your views on the work of our Organization and in particular on the Corfu process. Your presence today is a clear indication of the importance Lithuania attaches to its forthcoming chairmanship of the OSCE. We welcome this early opportunity for a dialogue.

We fully share your assessment that our organization can also contribute to promoting security, stability and prosperity by supporting regional and sub-regional co-operation and by developing genuine partnership between the OSCE and sub-regional institutions. In Central-Europe there is already a wide range of overlapping sub-regional institutions such as the V4; that is currently chaired by Hungary. In our experience these institutions provide us with a good framework for dialogue and collaboration based on common values and interests. Therefore we would appreciate if you could say a few more words on what could be done to better involve these sub-regional institutions in the work of the OSCE and on concrete areas of possible practical cooperation between them and our organization.

We also agree that the second dimension and in particular the issue of energy security should receive more attention in the OSCE because in our view, our organization would bring added value based on experience we have gained in other dimensions. We sincerely hope that an agreement can be reached on a more substantial OSCE dialogue on the subject of energy security.

Finally, let me note that during the first half of your OSCE chairmanship in 2011, Hungary will hold the EU presidency. I would like to take this opportunity to offer our full support to the forthcoming Lithuanian CiO and assure you of our readiness for a close and mutually beneficial co-operation.