

Corfu Informal Meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers on the Future of European Security Chair's Concluding Statement to the Press

1. The OSCE Ministers of Foreign Affairs met in Corfu, for the first time, in an informal setting, in order to discuss the current challenges and future perspectives of the common, indivisible, comprehensive and cooperative security, which has marked the post Cold-War European Security Architecture.

2. While this is a time to celebrate the remarkable progress the OSCE states have achieved together over the past two decades, the Ministers concurred that it is also time to consider that much work remains undone, and that the vision of a united continent, built on universal principles and indivisible security remains a target rather than a reality. It is high time to **“Reconfirm our acquis, Review the state of play of European Security and Renovate our mechanisms to deal with traditional and new challenges”**.

3. We just completed a fascinating, wide-ranging and frank discussion on the future of European security. We exchanged views on current security challenges in all three dimensions in the OSCE area. We also discussed the question of how to take this dialogue on European security forward, with view to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens and beyond.

4. Traditional security problems remain unresolved, while new threats and challenges emerge:

- Protracted conflicts, ethnic tensions and unresolved border disputes continue to plague parts of the OSCE area, having the potential to turn into serious crises;
- Europe's fundamental arms control regime, the CFE Treaty, a cornerstone of stability has been in limbo for almost two years;
- Democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental principles on human rights need to be strengthened in parts of the OSCE region;
- A deepening economic crisis might jeopardize the social coherence and political achievements in many OSCE states;
- Energy security, illegal migration, human trafficking, terrorism and fundamentalism, cybercrime and rising instability in regions adjacent to the OSCE area become more and more security preoccupations for OSCE states.

5. We concurred that these challenges should be dealt with in a comprehensive, coherent and cooperative manner, reaffirming the indivisibility of security from Vancouver to Vladivostok. In this regard, we reaffirmed the validity of the whole set of commitments in all three OSCE dimensions to which we have all subscribed in the CSCE/OSCE framework.

We agreed on the necessity to fully implement these commitments.

6. We agreed on the need for an open, sustained, wide-ranging and inclusive dialogue on security and concurred that the OSCE is a natural forum to anchor this dialogue, because it is the only regional Organization bringing together all States from Vancouver to Vladivostok on an equal basis. It is also the Organization in the framework of which the 56 states have agreed on specific principles and undertaken concrete commitments for building a Europe whole, free and in peace. Other security institutions can also contribute in this process in a complementary way, in the framework of the OSCE relevant documents, such as the Platform for Co-operative Security.

7. We also recognized that restoring confidence and trust among all stakeholders remains pivotal for our ability to successfully tackle upon traditional and new challenges. In this framework the security concerns of all participating States should be taken into account, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant OSCE documents. Our objective should be twofold: building a whole and lasting security in Europe for all and ensuring the security of Europe against common threats and challenges. We commit the political will to solve the security challenges we are facing, guided by the spirit of comprehensive,

cooperative and indivisible security. **This is the quintessence of the Corfu Process that we launch here today.**

8. As a next step and for the preparation of the Athens Ministerial Council, I have therefore decided to ask my Permanent Representative in Vienna to explore with all participating States **ways for a more structured dialogue**, and more specifically the priority areas that our dialogue should focus on and the modalities for its conduct. Some topics have already been mentioned by the Ministers today, which include, inter alia, the urgent need to address the peaceful and negotiated solution of regional conflicts, the revitalization of the arms control regime in Europe and the practical implementation of the principle of indivisibility of security, through channels of open communication and strengthened cooperation.

9. The Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE documents will remain the foundation stones for security in the OSCE area. The participating States see no alternative to the restoration of the concept of indivisible, co-operative and comprehensive security, enshrined in the OSCE documents to which they have all subscribed.

10. As we are setting sail from Corfu, we know that the journey will be challenging. We must be patient as we embark on one of the most important tasks

facing our region. As you know, Greece has a fair amount of experience navigating through difficult waters and we will remain faithful and committed in this journey throughout our Chairmanship and beyond.

11. We hope that the informal setting in Corfu will serve as a useful model for future “Corfu-Informal Ministerial Meetings” to be convened upon the initiative of future Chairmanships in order to review and take stock of the political priorities that need to be addressed in a concerted manner.

12. On behalf of the Greek Chairmanship I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this meeting.