

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EBERHARD POHL,
DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, AT THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 15 June 2010

**Working Session II: The role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict
prevention and resolution, crisis management and
post-conflict rehabilitation**

Questions of early warning, conflict prevention and resolution rightly play a central role in the Annual Security Review Conference and also in the Corfu Process. They are an essential component of the OSCE's mandate.

The dramatic events in Kyrgyzstan present the greatest challenge to the OSCE in Central Asia for many years. The strength of leadership of the Kazakh Chairmanship is particularly welcome here. Highest priority must be given to arresting the violence and restoring public order, without which a continuation of the democratic process that has just successfully begun in the country will not be possible. We therefore welcome the prompt dispatch of a Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship to Bishkek and await his recommendations on how to proceed. In Kyrgyzstan in particular the close interaction between the OSCE and other actors – the European Union, Council of Europe and United Nations – is important. Through its expertise and the particular weight of the Kazakh Chairmanship as an important participating State in the region, the OSCE can make a significant contribution to defusing the conflict. We offer the Kazakh Chairmanship our full support in this regard.

In addition, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that the protracted regional conflicts in the OSCE area continue to await a solution. They must remain on the international political agenda. The international community is called on to continue its energetic commitment. In spite of all the differences regarding status, the OSCE must also finally play an important role again in Georgia. Creative proposals for a solution are available. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict we call on the conflicting parties to show courage and determination to implement the package of measures elaborated by the co-chairmen of the Minsk Group.

Two weeks ago, in the light of the unresolved regional conflicts in Europe, the Federal Chancellor and President Medvedev proposed a joint endeavour by the European Union and Russia to further efforts to resolve the conflict in Transdnistria within the framework of the 5+2 format. The initiative converges smoothly with the efforts within

the 5+2 format with a significant contribution by the OSCE and is designed to see the process resumed and an outcome reached.

Within the framework of the Corfu Process we should agree on ways of strengthening the OSCE Chairmanship's ability to act in the event of a crisis. The United States of America has made some good suggestions in this regard, as has Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. Other ways in which the OSCE could be better equipped for crises include strengthening the OSCE Secretariat's early warning capabilities, early intervention by the OSCE Secretary General in the Permanent Council and greater collaboration between the OSCE structures, as proposed by Germany in a paper introduced in the Corfu Process. In the event of a crisis, close co-operation by international actors can ultimately result in a more efficient reaction. We should therefore strengthen the OSCE's co-operation with regional and international organizations through the Platform for Co-operative Security.

A review and improvement of OSCE early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms can at best establish a basis for the OSCE's intervention to prevent crises. Whether these capabilities will actually be used depends on the common political will of the OSCE participating States. Mobilizing this will to solve European security problems and to build the necessary confidence is a central aim of the Corfu Process.

We hope that it will be possible at the forthcoming informal meeting of foreign ministers in Almaty to identify specific areas for the future in which European security can be strengthened. Discussion at that meeting must be carefully planned and we would welcome it if you, Mr. Chairperson, would present your thoughts, in particular on the intended OSCE summit, as soon as possible. We see this potential summit as a meeting that will provide the impetus for the allocation of specific tasks with a view to a follow-up summit in two or three years. Apart from consolidating and strengthening the OSCE *acquis*, particularly in the human dimension, important focuses in our opinion include the creation of a framework for conventional arms control in Europe, increasing conflict resolution efforts and strengthening the OSCE's institutional framework, based on the work of the last few years. Ultimately, it is a question of how European security can best be guaranteed at the beginning of the twenty-first century and what role the OSCE can play in this regard.