

**Address
by**

ENGLISH only

**Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

The OSCE Ministerial Council
Dublin, 6 - 7 December 2012

**Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, dear colleagues,**

I am both privileged and honoured to be here today, at the kind invitation of the Irish Chairmanship in Office of the OSCE. I would like to express Romania's thanks to our hosts, in particular Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Eamon Gilmore and his very able team, for their leadership of our Organization and tireless efforts aimed at advancing solutions on which consensus could be achieved. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their tremendous work. Romania fully subscribes to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to highlight, in my national capacity, some additional issues.

We are strongly committed to the **concept of comprehensive security** that should remain the cornerstone of all our future endeavours and should guide us towards the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. This moment should be forward-looking, strengthen our Organization and constitute a landmark in our efforts to achieve the security community. The following elements have to be central in our endeavours for Helsinki+40 and beyond, with a view to bring us closer to the goal of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Implementation of commitments and enhanced capacity of the Organization to respond to new challenges by adopting **new commitments** remain essential on our path to the security community, but also in the short and medium term.

Our autonomous Institutions - the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities - and Executive Structures, including field missions, have long been strong pillars in assisting participating States in the implementation of their commitments and in the consolidation of a comprehensive security in the OSCE area. We need to strengthen them and to incorporate their contribution for a stronger OSCE in view of 2015 and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The **resolution of the protracted conflicts** is a pre-condition for fulfilling the goal set by our Heads of State and Government in Astana – creating a security community - as they remain serious threats to the security of the whole OSCE region. The Dublin Ministerial Council must give fresh impetus to their settlement and properly reflect this issue on its agenda and outcomes. The resolution of protracted conflicts – core business of the OSCE - should be at the very top political agenda, as status-quo is unacceptable. We commend the work of the CiO Special Representative for the Transnistrian Settlement process, Erwan Fouere and of the CiO Special Representative for South Caucasus, Ambassador Pdraig Murphy.

The **resolution of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova** remains a major priority for Romania. We commend the Irish Chairmanship for its efforts during this year, that resulted into increased dynamics of the negotiation process for the resolution of this protracted conflict in the “5+2”, the only framework that guarantees the transparency and legitimacy necessary for an enduring solution based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, in full conformity with the norms and principles of international law. We look forward to progress on the substance of the settlement process in all three baskets of the negotiations’ agenda. We commend that the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict features high on the future Ukrainian Chairmanship agenda and look forward to tangible outcomes in 2013. In addition, the stationing of foreign military forces and equipment on the territory of our neighbour remains in breach of the host-nation consent principle and of commitments undertaken at the Istanbul Summit in 1999 and continues to be a major obstacle to the resolution of the conflict. In this respect, my country continues to call for the resumption and completion without delay of the withdrawal of foreign military forces and equipment from the territory of Republic of Moldova. We believe any attempts of military build-up in the region of Transnistria to be counter-productive for the resolution of the conflict and detrimental to the security in our region and we call on all actors to refrain from such endeavours.

Regarding the **conflict in Georgia**, we reiterate our continuous strong support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We hope that progress will be made in the Geneva Discussions. We continue to believe that a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia would be extremely important. The EUMM continues to play a leading role in ensuring security and stability. Therefore, it should have access on the whole territory of Georgia, including in the Georgian breakaway regions.

On the **conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference**, we underscore the need to prevent any escalation of violence and to continue and intensify efforts in order to make progress in the negotiations, aimed at the peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict.

Last year we adopted an important decision in Vilnius on **strengthening the capacities of our Organization in the conflict cycle** in which Romania was closely involved. Conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and conflict rehabilitation remain key activities for our Organization and we must continue our strides to implement this decision and explore new areas to advance our commitments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE has often played the role of political standards-setter with regard to **human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law** and it has the most substantial acquis of commitments in the Human Dimension among regional organizations. In this context, I would like to stress the full and strong commitment of Romania for the fundamental values of democracy and rule of law, including the respect of the constitutional processes, both at home and in the entire OSCE area. **Violence and threats against journalists** are attacks on our democracies and we have to uproot this phenomenon. Let us adopt ambitious commitments regarding freedom of expression, freedom of the media and safety of journalists at the end of our meeting. The **digital era** has changed our world and opened new avenues for the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and it is time for the OSCE to safeguard these positive changes. We take the opportunity to reiterate our support for the Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age Declaration. We also call for new commitments with regard to freedom of association and assembly. In the everyday work in the Organization, we should continue to give attention also to **rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Sinti**. Also, **ODIHR's election observation** in accordance with its autonomous methodology remains a flagship activity of our Organization that we highly value.

Dear colleagues,

The CFE, the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Open Skies are the three pillars of the conventional arms control regime in Europe. These instruments are complementary, each regime being important and contributing to security and stability. Their full implementation, strengthening and modernizing, as appropriate, will substantially contribute to a better security climate based on mutual trust and co-operation, improved military transparency, predictability and stability.

Romania reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the acquis of principles and obligations in the field of arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures. We express strong attachment to the CFE Treaty with all its elements: a unique security arrangement and a legally-binding instrument having strategic importance for the European security. Romania is committed to **preserving, strengthening and modernizing arms control in Europe** and is ready to return to negotiations, should all States Parties be prepared to address all key principles that must be part of any future negotiation, including the host-nation consent for the stationing of foreign forces and the transparency.

At the same time, a substantially updated Vienna Document remains one of our main objectives since the Summit in Astana. The progress achieved during this year is rather modest. Much more needs to be done in 2013, towards the achievement of concrete results and tangible benefits in terms of increasing military transparency and predictability in the OSCE area.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The **Second Dimension is part of the comprehensive security concept of the OSCE** and would definitely benefit from a more strategic approach, with a focus on activities which are related or have an impact to security-related issues, while avoiding duplication of efforts of other international organizations. We continue to attach significant importance to the **potential of the economic and environment activities in building confidence**. This area was not enough explored in the activity of our Organization.

On a different note, Romania is in favour of sharpening and developing the profile of the OSCE in addressing **transnational threats** and challenges to security and stability. **The OSCE should bring its regional contribution to the broader efforts of other international organizations and co-operate also with relevant regional organizations**. We see added-value that the OSCE can bring in fighting transnational threats, in particular those stemming from Afghanistan. The field-presences of the OSCE are important vectors in this regard. We commend the efforts of the Department addressing Transnational Threats, created in 2012. This Department and all executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, should continue to bring their important contribution, in order to make the Organization increasingly more efficient in tackling these challenges. Endowing this Department in 2012 with appropriate tools and endorsing the decisions regarding the strategic mandates is very important. The OSCE also received new mandates in 2012 and it needs to fulfill the tasks it was granted, adopt a first set of confidence-building measures to enhance cyber security in 2012 and continue the process in the coming years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would also like to bring to the attention of the distinguished audience, the **intention of Romania** to enhance its contribution to the OSCE in the future, by **hosting OSCE and OSCE - related activities and events**.

Before concluding, I would like to wish success to the incoming 2013 Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship.

Thank you.