



**2011 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE  
CLOSING SESSION**

**Closing Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Norkus**

**Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Chairperson-in-Office, H.E. Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis, I have the pleasure to begin the closing session of the 2011 Annual Security Review Conference, which took place under the overall theme of “Towards a Security Community: What has to be Done”.

But first it gives me great pleasure to very warmly welcome to our Conference the new Secretary General of the OSCE, Lamberto Zannier. On behalf of all participating States, let me extend our congratulations to you on your appointment. We all wish you every success for the future, and can assure you of our utmost commitment to work with you in close partnership, in our collective endeavours to address common opportunities and challenges, with unity of effort and purpose.

Before providing some concluding remarks, I wish to express my gratitude to all keynote speakers and to all participants - many of whom have travelled long distances - for their attendance and for the constructive dialogue and input that has made this Conference a success.

I am very pleased that this Conference, has, indeed, provided a platform to advance ideas and concrete initiatives on how our Organization could adjust itself to be able to better respond strategically and operationally to the current security challenges and also embrace new opportunities to strengthen comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security within the OSCE area and beyond.

In that respect, allow me to highlight briefly some of the main findings and recommendations that have come out during our discussions over the last two and a half days. I hope you will not be critical in your judgments if I have left out some aspects that you consider equally important, as my list is not intended to be exhaustive.

- There was common agreement that the OSCE remains a major forum for discussions on a wide-range of security threats and challenges, given its broad membership, its unique geographic span – linking the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security spaces – and its comprehensive approach to security.
- Participants stressed the need to increase synergy among sub-regional, regional and international security organizations, complementing each other's efforts through even greater co-operation and co-ordination in building, as the NATO Secretary General put it, a free, peaceful and prosperous Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space, to tackle new and emerging threats, and to reinforce each other's work in protecting and promoting shared values and principles.
- On the vision of a security community, many highlighted that the discussions which have taken place over the last few years should be gradually transformed into action, including through the further consolidation of positions, thereby progressing and operationalizing the commitments made during the Astana Summit.
- Participants recognized that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of the adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia, and that the OSCE remains one of the key forums to work with the *Partners for Co-operation* on a range of security issues.
- Participants acknowledged that our Partners face a number of challenges related to democratic transition, rebuilding confidence, meeting societal expectations, tackling worsening economic situations, and addressing the shared challenges of transnational threats, in particular on combating terrorism and drug trafficking.
- Given the recent developments, particular in North Africa, priorities for co-operation need to be revisited, especially in recognition that Partners require different kinds and

degrees of support. Participants supported ongoing efforts to assist Partners in implementing reform programmes, as well as promoting a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan which continues to be a central issue to the OSCE as well as other international and regional organizations. Several participants recommended the urgent establishment of a real partnership, through focused and results-oriented activities in close co-ordination with other members of the international community, maximizing the Organization's comparative advantages, and in response to explicit requests from individual Partners. In that latter context, Partners were strongly encouraged to let us know their needs.

- Based on its acquis, experiences and expertise, such as in the code of conduct on politico-military aspects of security, police reform and community policing, participating States were encouraged to identify potential areas for the OSCE to provide added-value to the internal reform processes of Partners. A number were mentioned in the special session.
- The Chairmanship's strong resolve to achieve consensus at the Vilnius Ministerial Council on modalities to enhance the OSCE's engagement with the Partners for Co-operation was widely supported.
- The Organization's increased focus on **transnational threats and challenges** was seen as both welcome and appropriate.
- Transnational threats are extremely complex, multifaceted, and increasingly interdependent. Accordingly, our response must be cross-dimensional, adaptable, flexible and dynamic. It should take due account of the OSCE's key strengths, especially its notion of comprehensive security, including through the pursuit of efforts also in the economic and environmental dimension and, in particular, in the human dimension.
- The OSCE should sharpen its profile and step up its engagement with other relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations who are also working in the field of transnational threats, including through greater exchanges of information, the pooling of resources and the further development of joint capacity-building projects. The Platform for Co-operative Security is a useful tool for achieving greater unity of purpose and action

in that regard, particularly as our efforts in the OSCE should complement rather than duplicate efforts elsewhere, especially in times of scarcer resources.

- The OSCE should make increased use of contacts with other sectors of society, including the private sector and civil society, in formulating and implementing its response to TNTs. Such responses must be in compliance with human rights laws and commitments.
- Terrorist groups and organized crime groups are increasingly merging, and terrorist groups more often are using criminal means to fund their activities. Trends in recruiting and radicalization are particularly worrying and should be addressed. The OSCE's efforts to promote the UN counter terrorism legal framework should continue.
- There is a multi-layered link between corruption, organized crime and conflict. The defence and security sector is also susceptible to corruption and is a very attractive target for organized crime groups. The OSCE should play a role in raising awareness of the dangers of corruption and should encourage and facilitate contacts between agencies that fight corruption, organized crime and terrorism.
- The CiO's approach of addressing the OSCE's mandates in the area of TNTs as well as its structures attracted wide support. In particular, delegations welcomed work in the areas of developing a strategic framework for police-related activities and a concept on countering drugs, as well as work on consolidating the Organization's counter-terrorism mandates and developing a mandate in the area of cyber security. By the same token, the programmatic coherence and co-ordination within OSCE structures need to be enhanced.
- A number of participants called for enhanced engagement relating to other transnational threats, such as trafficking of human beings, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, protection of transportation networks, energy security, illegal migration as well as natural and man-made disasters and the rising nationalism in many countries.
- On **early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation**, there was widespread acknowledgement that the OSCE's role throughout the conflict cycle remains one of its core tasks. At its foundation lies the adherence to all agreed norms and standards, the full implementation of all commitments

and the recognition that there is no acceptable alternative to resolving conflicts other than through peaceful means. All these require a clear demonstration a genuine political will by all participating States.

- Many participants reiterated their support for enhancing the effectiveness and capabilities of the OSCE in the conflict cycle, which would benefit all participating States. In that respect, they welcomed the Chairmanship's intention for a Ministerial Council Decision in Vilnius on the conflict cycle, strengthening the Organization's early warning capacities, improving its early action, enhancing its mediation and dialogue facilitation work, and consolidating its post-conflict rehabilitation efforts. In that context, a number of delegations suggested that the proposals that they had previously put forward remained pertinent and warranted re-examination.
- A number of participants emphasized that strengthening the Organization's role in the conflict cycle went beyond mere procedural and organizational improvements, welcome and needed though they were. At the heart lies the need to strengthen and deepen the political will and courage of participating States, despite past and current difficulties, to make use of the full inventory of the Organization's existing toolbox, while respecting the principle of consensus, the need for a cross-dimensional approach and the requirement to co-ordinate and co-operate more closely with other international actors, while also maximizing the potential role of civil society in conflict settlement and post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation.
- Many delegations called for the resolution of protracted conflicts to be renewed and stepped up, through more constructive and intensified dialogue within existing formats. In that respect, a number of suggestions were put forward.
- With regards to revitalizing, updating and modernizing *conventional arms control and CSBMs*, many participants emphasized that arms control remains an important and central pillar of European security and, consequently, that it, together with CSBMs, also lies at the core of the OSCE's work.
- There was widespread conviction that progress should be made, through open and honest dialogue, to modernize the Vienna Document 1999. There was common recognition that

it needs adapting to changes in the security environment, while remaining true to the principles of transparency, predictability and accountability. Such action, which will undoubtedly require a willingness to compromise, is necessary if the Vienna Document is to be fully relevant in preventing conflict and reducing the risk of crisis. In that context, many delegations put forward a number of specific proposals related to the Document's different chapters.

- Participants equally recognized the importance of the CFE treaty within the European security architecture. Solid work on moving the Treaty forward in the 36 must continue in order to consolidate the different proposals made, as it is important to recognize that arms control and CSBMs complement each other and one can never be a substitute for the other.
- Other participants also highlighted the need to continue efforts in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as in the Code of Conduct in Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

We believe that there have been a lot of positive exchanges during the Conference, and that consensus is building on some particular issues that can become part of the substance of the Vilnius Ministerial Council.

In concluding, let me again thank you for your contributions. If you travelled, then I wish you a safe journey back home. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Conflict Prevention Centre, particularly its Planning and Analysis Team, the Conference Services, and especially the interpreters, for their valuable assistance in organizing and running this Conference.

My last point is that the Chair's Final Report on the 2011 Annual Security Review Conference will be distributed to participating States by 29 July. Thank you.