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**OSCE Ministerial Council on 5 - 6 December 2005
in Ljubljana.**

**Statement by Denmark delivered by State Secretary, Ambassador
Michael Zilmer-Johns.**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by expressing my full support for the statement made by the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union. And let me also extend my warm welcome to our new Secretary General, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. We have every confidence in his ability to take forward his important tasks.

Mr. Chairman,

Denmark welcomes the report by the Panel of Eminent Persons on ways to a more effective OSCE. The report does not call for radical reform of the OSCE, but rather for a continued adaptation of the organization.

There is no need for fundamental changes. But it is always healthy to take a close look at what we can do better while preserving the unique qualities of the organization and the commitments we have all undertaken.

The OSCE has over the years gained an excellent record in helping to advance peace and stability in the OSCE area. The organisation continues to play an important and valuable role in a Europe facing new security challenges. Especially noteworthy for their significance and excellent performance are the institutions, including ODIHR and the work this Office is doing in the field of election observation. As rightly concluded by the colloquium jointly organized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Institute for World Affairs in Washington last June - quote - "the crisis of the OSCE is first and foremost political" - unquote.

Structural reform will not solve the political problems. Only the participating States can solve these problems by re-committing themselves at the highest political levels to full implementation of all their OSCE commitments.

However, considering the evolving nature of threats to security and stability some adjustments in the OSCE's structures and working methods might be useful in order to maintain the organisation's ability to respond to new developments and ensure its

long-term effectiveness. We are ready to support any measure to strengthen the efficiency and improve the performance of the organization – under the clear condition that it does not interfere with the autonomy and flexibility of the institutions and field operations.

Mr Chairman,

It is already clear that discussions on possible measures to strengthen the effectiveness of the organization will continue well into next year. They should however not develop into a lengthy process, dragging on for many years, unduly diverting our attention from the important substantive work of the organization. We would therefore like to see these discussions come to a conclusion in the not too far future and at the latest at our next Ministerial meeting in Belgium in December 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

Denmark is a member of the UN Security Council this year and next year. Stepping up the international cooperation in the fight against terrorism is one of our key priorities during the course of these two years. As Chairman of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee, Denmark has put increased emphasis on strengthening cooperation between this Committee and regional organizations to ensure a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. We believe that the OSCE as a regional organization has an important role to play in ensuring implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and conventions among the member states of the OSCE. We therefore welcome the proposal presented by the Secretary General to restructure the Secretariat. It will strengthen the Secretariat's address many of the threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century. This envisaged cluster directly under the Secretary General's auspices would consist of units on policing, counter-terrorism, and anti-trafficking with the purpose of strengthening cross-dimensional co-ordination and internal cohesion.

In the politico-military dimension, Denmark supports this year's increased focus on implementation of the OSCE documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition. Denmark has made a particular contribution to the planning and sending of an international assessment team to Kaliningrad in order to assist the Russian Federation to destroy stockpiles of obsolete ammunition. Denmark also supports the work of the FSC related to conventional arms transfers and welcomes the new guidelines on MANPADS, end user certificates and brokering controls adopted last year. The corresponding Danish legislation on brokering came into force on 1 July this year. OSCE participating States must be in the forefront of efforts to ensure that arms transfers do not contribute to instability and aggression and do not fall into the hands of terrorists. Denmark welcomes the presentation made by the present chair of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) to the FSC in October.

As incoming chair of the MTCR we are ready to continue this type of contact when appropriate.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend ODIHR for the important work in support of democratic institutions. The Institution continues to have a central role to play also in the context of election observation. The expertise and methods of work of the OSCE election observation missions are solid and widely recognized in the international community.

The field missions are also crucial for OSCE's role in conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Denmark commends the excellent efforts made by the mission staff in this context.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me briefly turn to some regional issues.

In Georgia the OSCE plays an important role in finding solution to the conflict, thereby providing opportunities for a democratic and stable future. Denmark notes with satisfaction the agreement concluded between Russia and Georgia on the withdrawal of Russian military bases from Georgia. We hope relations between the involved parties will improve further and help to create the right conditions for solving the conflicts in Abkhasia and South Ossetia. These conflicts have already lasted far too long and all constructive forces stand to benefit from a peaceful settlement. The point of departure for such a settlement must be territorial integrity of Georgia - as acknowledged by President Putin of Russia - but at the same time the possibility of new constitutional arrangements should also be explored. The OSCE and the Council of Europe will be able to assist in this regard.

In Nagorno-Karabakh we welcome the positive signs and hope that the direct contacts between the Armenian and Azeri Presidents will finally lead to a peaceful settlement.

Also in the Transnistria conflict we have seen some positive developments, which we look forward to further being explored within the new 5 plus 2-sided framework. Denmark stresses in this context the importance of the speedy implementation of the CFE commitments made at the Istanbul summit in 1999.

Uzbekistan has witnessed serious incidents of violence in Andisjan last May. Denmark regrets the Uzbek Government's rejection of repeated calls for an international

investigation which could shed unbiased light over the events. Such an investigation would be in the interest of everybody.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by expressing our gratitude to you personally as Chairman-in-Office and your team for a professional handling of the chairmanship. We are especially impressed by the highly efficient and competent way in which you have directed the discussions on the scales of budgetary contributions and led them to a successful conclusion, thereby finding a solution to an important question, which has been under discussion for several years.

Thank you.