



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Opening Statement of OSCE Secretary General,
Ambassador Ján Kubiš,
to the 11-12 March 2004 Follow-up Meeting
to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Special Meeting**

Vienna, Austria

May I also join in welcoming all of you, participants and observers, to this important conference.

As Ambassador Petrov has just noted, counter-terrorism remains high on the agenda of the OSCE Bulgarian Chair as it has with previous Chairs. Our relationship with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and other international organizations is absolutely critical to our anti-terrorism efforts. As such, it is indeed a pleasure to host this UNCTC Special Meeting together with UNODC here in Vienna.

This is not the first, but the *third* major counter-terrorism conference that the OSCE has organized or co-hosted since the beginning of this year. The concrete results are worth sharing with you:

The OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, in co-operation with ICAO and with the support of Canada, in January held the first-ever intergovernmental workshop on the threat that shoulder-fired missiles pose to our airports. Experts from NATO, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), ICAO, the EC, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States presented on the threat that Man Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, pose to civil aviation.

Last week, the OSCE and ICAO, with U.S. support, hosted a two-day technical workshop on safeguarding travel documents against fraudulent use. As with the MANPADS workshop, OSCE and international community interest and participation was very high. Passport

issuing and immigration authorities from 47 OSCE capitals joined five international organizations -- UNODC, INTERPOL, OECD, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration. Sub-regional travel document workshops, such as the one funded by the German Government last year, are also being held in collaboration with international organizations.

These focused, expert, technical workshops are resulting in concrete results. The MANPADS conference caused many national governments in the OSCE region to immediately undertake efforts to better safeguard their airports against this threat. Similarly, last week's workshop on safeguarding travel documents was so successful that ICAO is now planning to approach other regional organizations represented here today on undertaking similar collaborative workshops in your respective regions.

We are working with other international organizations on other terrorism concerns. The International Atomic Energy Agency is working with us to better address the ongoing problem that illicit radiological materials – materials that can be used in the making of radiological dispersion devices or “dirty bombs” – continue to pose in the OSCE region.

To further the ratification and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 and the 12 universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, UNCTC, UNODC and OSCE experts recently met with representatives from Turkey and eight countries of the Caucasus and Central Asian regions last month in Antalya Turkey. Again, the results were concrete, with all participating countries agreeing to continue efforts on ratification and implementation. Five countries requested joint OSCE-UNODC bilateral assistance.

We are also learning from your experiences.

I especially note the good work of the Organisation of American States on a number of fronts, including the establishment of a counter-terrorism national points of contact network. This idea was adopted by the OSCE last December by OSCE Ministers, resulting in the establishment of an OSCE counter-terrorism network last month.

This is exactly how best practice sharing between our respective organizations can benefit us all.

But sharing best practices alone is not enough. We look to the leadership of the United Nations and, in particular, the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, to give cohesion to our respective efforts. Without UNCTC's help and guidance, the danger of overlap and wasting precious resources is great. At the same time, we must be flexible enough to adapt our efforts to meet new or emerging threats.

I am pleased that under the dynamic leadership of the Spanish Chair of the UNCTC, Ambassador Arias, we have for the first time included focus on current and emerging terrorist threats such as MANPADS.

As continuing terrorist attacks grimly demonstrate, the global threat of terrorism remains all too real. News of these terrible events invariably report the numbers of dead and injured. Then the event passes. The victims are not heard from. And they are often forgotten.

Earlier this year, in Madrid, OSCE participated in the first international gathering of Victims of Terrorism hosted by the Government of Spain. There, the faces and voices of victims of terrorism were heard. It is only so sad that today, more names of victims of the most horrendous terrorist outrage in Madrid were added.

The concrete achievements of the organizations represented here at this conference will demonstrate our common commitment and shared determination that such victims of terrorism will not be forgotten.

Our actions must speak, not just our words. This meeting shall move us resolutely forward in this direction.

Thank you.

