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**Statement of German Delegation  
Session 1: Preventing and Combating Terrorism  
The Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna  
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Mr Chairman,

I am delighted to have the opportunity of speaking here today. Please regard what I say as additional thoughts on the European Union address, which I endorse in every respect.

The OSCE has proved to be a driving force in international cooperation against terrorism. It supports the work of the United Nations, particularly that of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. Here the OSCE capitalizes on its unique position as a regional organization with specialized task forces for counter-terrorism, the development of police forces and human rights protection. The field missions are another aspect of the OSCE's special role in efforts to combat terrorism. The regional conference organized jointly by the OSCE, UNODC and UNCTC in March this year was an impressive example of what it can achieve.

The participating states' pledges to ratify the 12 UN conventions and protocols on anti-terrorism issues set down in the Bucharest Plan of Action have helped strengthen the role of these mechanisms considerably. By 31 December 2002, the original deadline, 36% of OSCE participating states had signed and ratified all these instruments. Now 53% have done so. This is in itself a great step forward. But we must not become complacent. We must continue to press for the ratification of the sectoral agreements. The goal is 100%. Incidentally, Germany will deposit its instrument of ratification for the Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism in New York in the next few days. All 12 sectoral conventions will then be in force in Germany. I think the OSCE should recall the commitments set down in the Bucharest Plan of Action and renew its efforts to achieve the ratification and implementation of the 12 conventions. ODIHR, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, and Germany bilaterally have helped several states to ratify and

implement these conventions in the past. I urge you to take advantage of these offers of support while they are available!

Other very important activities are also taking place within the OSCE. I am referring to the measures to reduce the threat posed by man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and particularly to the initiative to increase travel document security. Travel document security is crucial, not only to combating illegal migration but also to preventing terrorists entering potential target countries.

Travel document security is a key factor in combating terrorism. It depends on international and regional cooperation, as well as on exploring new technologies designed to make documents more difficult to forge. The ATU regional workshops on this topic and the OSCE/ICAO workshop on biometrics are therefore very good approaches which we must definitely pursue and step up.

Assisting other countries (capacity building) in this field is also crucial. The Federal Republic of Germany has therefore backed an OSCE project to train Uzbek border guards in Austria this year. In 2003 it sponsored an OSCE regional workshop in Central Asia on detecting manipulated and counterfeit travel documents.

In the same region Germany also funded the Karamyk border crossing in Kyrgyzstan in 2003. Another border crossing in Kyrgyzstan is due to be equipped in 2004.

Another important issue is undoubtedly the security of shipping containers. The goal must be to establish a global system which eliminates the misuse of containers for terrorist ends. The Action Plan adopted recently under the Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative by the G8 Heads of State and Government on Sea Island calls for closer collaboration to improve cargo screening. We welcome this initiative and the proposals from the International Customs Organization and the International Maritime Organization.

Yet amid all the anti-terrorism initiatives we should not forget one other, overriding aspect. We must ensure the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism. The appalling images from the Middle East in the past weeks have made this quite clear. Respect of human rights and the rule of law must not play second fiddle to counter-terrorism goals under any circumstances. This is where they are needed most.

- Oppression, massive restriction of civil liberties, torture and similar practices cannot be cited as direct causes of terrorism. Nevertheless, they create a climate which provides fertile ground for terrorists to recruit new followers.
- The not uncommon use of counter-terrorism as a pretext for eliminating unpopular political opponents and dissidents robs these efforts of all legitimacy.
- Democracies must first observe their own standards before they can defend them against international terrorism.

For this reason we support the work of ODIHR (OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights). We appeal to ODIHR not to diminish its efforts but to intensify them! Other OSCE institutions charged with combating and preventing terrorism, including the Action Against Terrorism Unit, of course, also have a responsibility to ensure that their activities adequately reflect the significance of human rights.

Thank you for your attention. I hope that this year's Security Conference will inject new momentum into cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism.