

*Wilhelm Höynck, Vienna/OSCE 20.12.12*

Let me start by expressing my thanks to the Troika and the Secretary General. The honour to receive the OSCE Medal came as a total surprise. Perhaps there is an unintended link with Helsinki+40; because my involvement in CSCE affairs began some years *before* the Helsinki Summit 1975. And 20 years ago, almost to the day, Foreign Minister Genscher, my great mentor in CSCE affairs, pushed me to apply for the post of SG. Today I am very pleased to accept the OSCE Medal in particular as an acknowledgement for the whole team, who set up and worked with me in the CSCE Secretariat and for the experts, who supported my work for the OSCE in Central Asia. Instead of 60 minutes on OSCE past-present-and future, kindly allow me the opportunity to make three more or less improvised remarks from a somewhat distant OSCE observer.

***First:*** I cannot remember how often I have seen discussions about the future of CSCE or OSCE. *Feelings of crisis or concerns about difficult times for OSCE* have not been *extraordinary* incidents; they have appeared almost as a standard item on OSCE health certificates. This is a genetic defect of OSCE that certainly needs treatment, but which is not life- threatening. Let there be no doubt: For the foreseeable future the OSCE will remain one of the essential, indispensable knots and an integral part of the network of Euro, Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security organisations.

***Second:*** The MC in Dublin has shown again the crucial role of the OSCE Chairmanship. On the other hand this MC, its results and a number of major statements indicate a serious deficit - West and East of Vienna. The support for the

CiO in the difficult process of consensus building is *not commensurate* with the target of a security community.

***Third:*** I understand the decision of the Dublin MC on the Helsinki+40 process as a wakeup call for the OSCE. Is there hope for concrete results at the end of the follow-up? I believe that each of one of the upcoming chairmanship countries is called upon to make specific contributions based on its respective historical experience and geopolitical situation. This will need some courage and a joint effort to mobilize the support of key actors inside and outside OSCE.

Dear friends, I would like to close with this quote from Dag Hammarskjöld: “*Much of what is done will one day prove to have been of little avail. That is no excuse for the failure to act in accordance with our best understanding, in recognition of its limits but with faith in the ultimate result of the creative evolution in which it is our privilege to co-operate.*”