

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. VLADIMIR CHIZHOV, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE REINFORCED  
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 1 July 2004

Mr. Chairman,

This has been a very eventful year for Europe. Both the European Union (EU) and NATO were enlarged, and a Constitution was adopted for the EU. Collaboration was strengthened within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC). We believe that, at a time when such active integration processes are going on, the OSCE's role as a unique forum for political dialogue and the adoption of decisions on questions of security and co-operation should be intensified. The conceptual documents adopted at Porto and Maastricht make it possible for us to do this. The time has come to translate these decisions into the language of specific, practical OSCE projects. The OSCE must face up to the obligation of accomplishing its truly essential tasks and — wherever possible and appropriate — it should assume the role of a leader.

A central part of the OSCE's work lies, beyond any doubt, in the fight against terrorism. On the whole we are satisfied with the results that have been achieved: 50 out of 55 OSCE participating States have fulfilled the special recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), and 29 countries have acceded to all 12 of the universal conventions and protocols referred to in resolution 1373 of the United Nations Security Council. As far as Russia is concerned, we still have to ratify one of these — the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection. However, I can report that the work aimed at implementing this ratification is nearing completion.

We consider as useful a number of other events that took place in Vienna this year which were in line with the OSCE's programme and involved its participation: the OSCE Workshop on Countering the Threat of Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems to Civil Aviation at Airports (23 January), the OSCE-ICAO Workshop on Travel Document Security (1 and 2 March) and the third meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council with international, regional and subregional organizations (11 and 12 March). We likewise take a positive view of the work done by the "Anti-Terror Group of Friends" of the Permanent Council, which prepared a number of important decisions relating to the fight against terrorism.

We consider the OSCE's main task in connection with anti-terrorist activities to be that of monitoring the fulfilment by participating States of their international commitments related to the fight against terrorism. A valuable contribution to these efforts is the Permanent Council's decision on further measures to suppress terrorist financing, which we propose to adopt today. Russia, you will recall, was the initiator of this step.

The OSCE should continue to take an active part in the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts within the context of existing negotiation formats.

We supported the plan of the Bulgarian Chairmanship to make 2004 a "year for the implementation of OSCE documents", in particular the agreements reached at Maastricht. We are bound to acknowledge that a certain amount of progress has been made in a number of areas, for example in the fight against terrorism and trafficking in human beings, and in work on the "external dimension" and border security. A lot remains to be done, however. It is important in particular to study the distribution of OSCE resources and to see in what degree it corresponds to agreed political priorities.

We take a positive view of the results obtained at last week's second Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC). We can safely say that these conferences have already proven their worth as an important forum for the exchange of views on a broad spectrum of problems.

Unfortunately, however, the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, approved at Maastricht, is still not being fully implemented. We must not carry out its provisions on a selective basis. It is essential to give our attention to strengthening the analytical potential of the OSCE for the identification of threats and to create a mechanism for co-ordination in this sphere with other international organizations. This last question is particularly relevant from the standpoint of the "organizational congestion" in Europe which could lead to duplication of effort, and possibly to elements of competition and a dissipation of resources. This matter was discussed at the ASRC and we are convinced that this work should be continued.

The same remarks apply to the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We feel that artificial attempts to select certain aspects of the Document for our attention while ignoring others are counterproductive. This is a comprehensive document and its provisions must be implemented in an appropriate way. We consider it essential to enhance the effectiveness of the Economic Forum's work as well. We should try to deal with this question right now, in fact, having already begun discussions on the selection of a truly relevant topic for the Forum's meeting in 2006. We feel that an appropriate theme might be the development of transport infrastructure in the OSCE area.

Another priority matter remains the reform of the OSCE. This matter was discussed in the report of the Netherlands Chairmanship at the Ministerial Council meeting in Maastricht. Today, given the changing situation we find as regards security, all international organizations are undergoing a reform process and the OSCE should not be an exception.

We take a positive view of the initial work done by the Permanent Council's Working Group on the Reform of the OSCE and the serious approach of its Chairman, Ambassador Liviu Bota. We are hoping for concrete results in the development of rules and

procedures, structural improvements for OSCE bodies and a consultation mechanism to discuss appropriate draft decisions for the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia.

We believe it is both possible and necessary to agree on specific decisions before the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia and a decision on reform of the OSCE's field activities. Our proposals regarding basic principles to govern the mandates of missions, mechanisms for collaboration with the receiving authorities, and improvements in budgetary planning, prepared in collaboration with Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/986/03 of 4 September 2003), are now being considered by the Permanent Council's Working Group on Improving the Functioning and Effectiveness of OSCE Field Operations.

The main task, however, in 2004 as regards reform is to review the scale of contributions. If we do not reach an agreement on this matter, as of 1 January the OSCE will be left without a budget, so that next year we will not only have nothing to talk about but also nowhere to hold talks. We are in favour of the elaboration of a single scale of contributions covering both institutions and missions, calculated according to United Nations guidelines and based on the real ability of States to pay.

We should like to emphasize that reform does not mean revising the foundations of our Organization. The consensus rule will remain an unshakeable pillar of the OSCE, one which we pledged to strengthen in the Charter for European Security and other documents, including those approved at the highest level.

During the Annual Security Review Conference, concerns were raised regarding the weakening of the treaty law foundations of European security and the growing role of military force in world politics. Given this state of affairs, we need to ensure that the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe enters into force as soon as possible and we need to modernize the existing regime of confidence- and security-building measures.

On 25 June, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russia approved, with a significant majority, the Law on the Ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty, which, we trust, will enter into force in the near future once ratification procedures are completed. Russia will thus become the fourth country to have ratified this Agreement, after Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. It is our hope that this step will encourage the other States Parties to the CFE Treaty to fulfil this most important Istanbul commitment as well.

We support an increased role for the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the preservation of its autonomous status and its right to take independent decisions, and also to make its own vital contribution to preparations for the annual security review conferences.

The Ministerial Council meeting in Maastricht set a number of key tasks in the human dimension. Noticeable progress has been made in the implementation of decisions on tolerance and combating trafficking in human beings.

We welcome the appointment of Ms. Helga Konrad as the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. We trust that some good decisions will be drafted in time for the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia following the conclusion in September of a series of conferences on countering various forms of discrimination and intolerance and the holding of the Helsinki conference on trafficking.

At the same time, other Maastricht decisions are being implemented less effectively. This applies to the improvement and standardization of election standards in the OSCE area. We are counting on the forthcoming supplementary meeting on these questions to impart the necessary impetus to the implementation of our own decisions. An important aspect is the introduction of standard criteria for the assessment of election practices on the part of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and OSCE observer missions. For many participating States, this is a key factor for co-operation with the Organization in election monitoring.

A traditional priority of Russia within the OSCE is the protection of the rights of national minorities. We believe that in this area the Organization is not doing enough and is showing clear selectivity. In order to understand this, one need only compare the OSCE's efforts in, let us say, Macedonia and its openly passive stance with regard to Latvia and Estonia.

In 2005, Europe and the entire world will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We propose that we discuss within the framework of the OSCE possible steps for our Organization in that connection, and possibly adopt a decision to that end at the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia. This is especially important in the light of certain noticeable trends towards a revival of Nazi ideas and revisionist attempts to distort the outcome of the war.

Next year will also be a special year for the OSCE, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary, no less. We believe that the current Bulgarian Chairmanship and next year's Slovenian Chairmanship, along with all other participating States, could usefully submit proposals in that connection.

In conclusion, summing up all that has been said, we should like us all, and especially the Chairmanship, to bear in mind the thoughts and comments expressed today about the work of our Organization. We hope that all the Maastricht decisions and other agreements will be implemented in full, without any selectivity or preferential treatment. This will allow us, despite some reservations regarding the results of the work in the first half of the year, to aim at and perhaps achieve substantive results at the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia in December.

Thank you for your attention.