



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

MC.DEL/39/04
6 December 2004

ENGLISH only

Conference Services

At the request of OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement made at the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council, 6 – 7 December 2004, Sofia, is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.



**Republic of Macedonia
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

ADDRESS

By

H.E. Dr. Fuad Hasanovik

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia

at the

TWELTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Sofia, 6-7 December 2004

Mr. Chairman,

May I commence by joining previous speakers in congratulating the Bulgarian Chairmanship on the results achieved and on promoting cooperation and genuine partnership among the participating States.

It proved to be that this was indeed a year of implementation of Maastricht decisions, as Minister Passy announced when assuming the Chairmanship.

This has further enhanced implementation of the fundamental principles of the Organization and established new tools in fighting terrorism, trafficking in human beings, intolerance, and other cross-dimensional challenges transcending its geographical area.

Mr. Chairman,

We all agree that the Helsinki process has provided the participating States with a standing channel of communication and a code of conduct in their relations, what created conditions for improving stability and for peaceful changes in Europe. Despite occasional skepticism within the Organization, I firmly believe that the OSCE, with its cooperative and multidimensional approach to security, remains one of the pillars of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. However, we also agree that the reform is necessary for the OSCE to remain a relevant forum for political and security dialogue in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

OSCE's flexibility remains one of its key advantages. In this context, I would like to underscore the necessity of further strengthening the pragmatic cooperation with other international organizations, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security and the Maastricht Strategy to Address Challenges to Security and Stability in the 21st century. Security is indivisible and hence the cooperation and synergy of relevant international organizations in coping with present and new challenges, risks and changes must be further advanced.

Mr. Chairman,

Horrifying acts of terrorism, which most unfortunately continued this year, strengthened our resolve to fight this evil, encouraged our efforts to identify practical and effective actions for intensified campaign against it. In this regard, I believe that the set of decisions to be adopted at this Ministerial, complementing the OSCE Charter for Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the Bucharest Plan of Action, will contribute to more efficient cooperation among the participating States in this sphere.

Although substantial progress have been achieved in regard to better balancing of the three OSCE's dimensions, we believe that this process should proceed, and that appropriate attention should continue to be paid to the human dimension.

Speaking about the human dimension, I wish to express my great satisfaction with the activities organized this year related to the inter-cultural, inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue. We fully endorse the results of the Berlin, Paris and Brussels conferences, as well as the appointment of personal representatives of the Chairman-in-Office to deal with the issues in this sphere.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As other international organizations, the OSCE must continually adapt to new realities at the same time focusing on areas of its comparative advantage. The Republic of Macedonia is prepared to continue to take part in that dialogue. In this regard, I believe that the establishment of the Panel of Eminent Persons will give substantial contribution to political dialogue and provide vision for the functioning of our Organization in the new political and security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

As 2004 has been challenging but successful for the OSCE, the year of implementation and of definition of a vision for its future, the same goes for the Republic of Macedonia. We have dealt with a number of serious challenges, starting from the tragic loss of President Trajkovski, early elections and the referendum. At the same time, we have worked intensively on the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, but also on fundamental economic and social reforms.

The Macedonian authorities are dedicated to working towards the completion of the Ohrid Agreement. This policy is strongly supported by the majority of citizens, as confirmed by the results of the recent referendum on the Law on Territorial Organization. The message of the referendum is that Macedonia remains a democratic, Europe and Euro-Atlantic oriented country. As you may know, a new government is being established now which will continue with the reforms agenda, in particular in the judiciary, fight against organized crime and corruption and improving business environment.

Membership in EU and NATO remains one of the top foreign policy priorities for the Republic of Macedonia.

We are now intensively working on the finalization of answers to the EU questionnaire. We are committed to early fulfilment of the EU membership criteria.

As to NATO, all necessary reforms to meet the membership criteria are being carried out. We are confident that the process will be finalized by 2006 when we expect invitation for membership. The cooperation under the Adriatic Charter gives added-value to the entire process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to note that the region of South Eastern Europe is today regarded by the OSCE as well, as a region of cooperation characterized by strong dedication and actions, individually and collectively, to foster the European future of the region. We highly appreciate the support and assistance of EU and NATO to that end. On the other hand, the OSCE, through the activities of its institutions and missions, gives its valuable contribution to this process.

In this context, I wish to underline the role of the OSCE Spillover Mission as well as the ODIHR contribution to the election and referendum processes in Macedonia.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by wishing much success to our future Chairmanship, friendly Slovenia with in-depth knowledge of SEE, with whom we have excellent relations.

Thank you.