



## ROMANIA Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### *Statement*

*By H.E. Titus Corlățean, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania*

*at the OSCE Ministerial Council*

*Kyiv, 5-6 December 2013*

*Mr. Chairperson,*

*Mr. Secretary General,*

*Dear colleagues,*

Let me first extend our thanks to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Leonid Kozhara, and his hard-working team, for the leadership of the Organization throughout 2013. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, and the Secretariat, for their valuable work.

Romania fully subscribes to the remarks on behalf of the European Union. Let me highlight some issues of special relevance for my country, in my national capacity.

**Dear colleagues,**

I came here with a strong message of commitment and **support of Romania to the values, principles and commitments of the OSCE.**

**Ukraine, as Chairmanship-in-Office** of the OSCE, has taken at the beginning of 2013 the task to lead by example, fully abiding by its international commitments, including of upholding the freedom of expression, including protection of journalists, as well as freedom of assembly. The respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms remains at the core of the comprehensive approach to security in the OSCE area.

In the context of recent developments in Ukraine, we are **concerned** about the use of force against peaceful protesters who were demonstrating in support for Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU.

We therefore encourage **intensified efforts to identify a peaceful and political solution** and urge all parties to engage in dialogue. Only in this way, Ukraine will be able to secure the continuation of its important investment in the project of political association and economic integration with the EU.

At the same time, we welcome the intention of the Ukrainian authorities to carry out **investigations** into recent events and hold responsible those who acted against the principles of freedom of expression and assembly.

We remain convinced that the **future of Ukraine, our neighbor and friend, lies in a strong relationship with the EU.** Anchoring Ukraine into an irreversible path towards democracy, rule of law and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is indeed the key to

the prosperity of the people of Ukraine, while being a pre-requisite to the reform process in the country and an undeniable contribution to the overall security in the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain fully and unwaveringly committed to the **comprehensive, multidimensional and indivisible concept of security** that should continue to be the basis of all OSCE activities, in particular in the Helsinki+40 Process and in the overall endeavours to accomplish the goal of a **free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok**. The anniversary of 40 years since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act should generate the political will to solve the unfinished business in the OSCE and strengthen our Organization's capacity to address current and future challenges.

**Shortfalls in the implementation of commitments are undermining the OSCE**. We must observe commitments that we have all agreed to and also be ready to strengthen them and adopt new commitments, as means to respond to emerging challenges. In this vein, we should reconfirm every year, through **meaningful decisions in all the three Dimensions**, the relevance and importance that we attach to the OSCE.

I would like to extend our **warm appreciation for the autonomous institutions** of the OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media - and Executive Structures, including field missions, for their devoted and valuable work. They assist us all in the implementation of our commitments. They are part of the OSCE *acquis* that makes the Organization **unique**. We should further strengthen them, support their activity and ensure their involvement in the Helsinki+40 Process.

**Protracted conflicts** pose a very serious challenge to the security of our whole OSCE region. We should not keep a blind eye to this challenge. **Status-quo is highly detrimental** to peace and stability; it is neither acceptable, nor sustainable. Therefore, any attempts to marginalize this topic on our agenda should be resisted. **Lack of progress** undermines the **credibility of the OSCE**. The resolution of the protracted conflicts is a must for the realization of the security community, as it relates to the core mandate of the Organization. They must be addressed with urgency and be at the very **top of the political agenda**. We commend the efforts made this year by the CiO Special Representative for the Resolution of Protracted Conflicts, Ambassador Andriy Deschytsya.

Regarding the resolution of the **conflict in the Republic of Moldova**, we commend the efforts and the priority attached by the Ukrainian Chairmanship during 2013 to advancing negotiations for the resolution of the conflict in the "5+2" format, the only framework that guarantees the legitimacy and transparency for a lasting solution based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, in full conformity with the norms and principles of international law. We look forward to progress on the substance of the settlement process in all the three baskets of the negotiations' agenda, especially the **basket dedicated to institutional, political and security issues**, that remains at the core of the settlement. We fully support the **mandate** and activity of the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Moldova, including in the **security field** and are concerned by obstructive attempts to restrict its capacity to accomplish the mandate, in particular in the Transnistrian region.

The host-nation consent principle and the commitments undertaken at the **Istanbul Summit in 1999** are violated by the stationing of foreign military forces and equipment on the territory of our neighbour. This is a major obstacle to the resolution of the conflict. The withdrawal of foreign military forces and equipment from the territory of the Republic of Moldova should be resumed and completed without delay.

Progress should be made with regard to concrete measures for ensuring good functioning of the **Romanian-language schools in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova**.

We welcome the intention of the two future Chairmanships - Switzerland and Serbia - to appoint a Special Representative for the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict, with a 2-year mandate. This **continuity** of efforts should be capitalized in order to make tangible progress in the resolution of this conflict, also in the framework of **Helsinki+40 Process**.

We reiterate our support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, within its internationally recognized borders. We are strongly preoccupied by the process of erecting **fences and other obstacles along the Administrative Boundary Lines and beyond** them, and their implications conducive to restrictions to freedom of movement and to the exercise of other human rights and fundamental freedoms. We hope that progress will be made in the **Geneva Discussions**. The EUMM plays a leading role in ensuring security and stability and should have access on the whole Georgian territory, including the breakaway regions. We encourage the incoming Chairmanship to increase efforts with a view to restoring a **meaningful, cross-dimensional OSCE presence** throughout Georgia.

On the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**, we welcome the recent **Summit** of the Azeri and Armenian Presidents and look forward to **intensified efforts**, with a view to making progress in negotiations, aimed at a peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict.

**Conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and conflict rehabilitation** remain key activities for our Organization and we welcome the activities undertaken this year. We commend the focus of the Swiss Chairmanship in 2014 on mediation and hope that the discussions and recommendations of the *Conference on Mediation in the OSCE Area*, organized in Bucharest in July this year, will provide a useful source of inspiration for OSCE activities next year, including for the creation of a **mediation support facility**.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Distinguished audience,*

Shortcomings in the implementation of **human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law commitments** are particularly worrying and we need to step up efforts in the OSCE to remedy these deficiencies, with the assistance of our institutions and executive structures. Furthermore, we have to restore the role of the OSCE as a visionary standard-setter in the field of human rights, through adopting new commitments that respond to new challenges. Regrettably, for a few years now the participating States failed to agree on new commitments to combat **violence and threats against journalists**. It is high-time to demonstrate also in the OSCE that we promote, at the highest political level, the protection of journalists and adopt a Ministerial Council Decision in this area. The Action Plan for Improving the Situation of **Roma and Sinti** within the OSCE Area holds a special significance for us. Romania presided over the process of elaborating and negotiating it for adoption. We are pleased that, ten years later, we will manage to adopt the most comprehensive set of commitments since the Action Plan. We also call for new commitments with regard to **freedom of religion and belief**. Also, **ODIHR's election observation** in accordance with its autonomous methodology remains a flagship activity of our Organization, that we highly value.

Furthermore, we welcome the civil society event prior to the Ministerial Council and its recommendations regarding the Helsinki+40 Process.

**Dear colleagues,**

Romania fully implements all commitments in the field of arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures.

We remain committed to **preserving, strengthening and modernizing conventional arms control in Europe**, based on key principles, including the host-nation consent for the stationing of foreign forces.

OSCE could serve as a platform for **general** discussions on the future of conventional arms control in Europe, including in the framework of Helsinki +40 Process, on the condition that these discussions do not go beyond a certain level of generality and **remain without prejudice to discussions** in other formats.

Vienna Document, the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security, the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, alongside the CFE Treaty and the Treaty on Open Skies are all **important pillars of our common approach to security** in the field of arms control and confidence and security building measures. Each instrument is important and contributes to security and stability in the OSCE area. Their full implementation, updating, strengthening and modernizing, as appropriate, will substantially contribute to a better security climate based on mutual trust and co-operation, stability, improved military transparency and predictability.

A substantially **updated and modernized Vienna Document** remains a key task and responsibility, as requested by our Heads of State and Government at the OSCE Astana summit. There is a very modest progress achieved ever since and this constitutes a hurdle for increasing military transparency and predictability in the OSCE area.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Second Dimension is an integral part of the comprehensive security concept of the OSCE and its potential should be **better tapped into, with a focus on activities that have an impact on security-related issues**, while avoiding duplication of efforts in other international bodies. We look forward this year to strengthening commitments in the area of energy-related activities and environment, by promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation and public participation in decision-making processes, increased involvement of civil society and also building on the *acquis* of commitments in the areas of good governance and transparency. We are also in favour of pursuing dialogue in the area of addressing critical non-nuclear energy infrastructure protection.

Romania has proactively advocated for developing the toolbox of the Organization in the field of transnational threats. 2013 is the year of an important breakthrough at the OSCE on confidence-building measures in the field of **cyber security**. We very much welcome that the OSCE delivered on a very topical issue and we look forward to the beginning of the implementation of the Decision by the Swiss Chairmanship. At the same time, the process of implementation of the strategic documents adopted in 2012 is more than a one-year endeavor. It should also take into account the challenges involved by the 2014 withdrawal of NATO-ISAF. OSCE should build on its comparative advantages and bring its contribution in the international efforts of ensuring stability and security in **Afghanistan** and the neighbouring region. This Organization is well-placed to bring a regional contribution to the broader efforts of other international organizations. The field presences of the OSCE are important vectors in this process.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate the intention of my country to enhance its contribution to this Organization, by continuing to host OSCE and OSCE-related activities and events. I would also like to wish success to the incoming 2014 Swiss OSCE Chairmanship.