

**Turkish Delegation
to the OSCE**

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Border security and management has multi-dimensional aspects. Our organization has experience and potential that would enable it to contribute to the development of this concept.

OSCE is also equipped with the necessary instruments to encourage implementation of CSBM's through facilitating political dialogue and good offices and to assist in capacity building through seminars and training.

Common aim of the participating States on the one hand is to promote open but controlled and secure borders and to cooperate in the fight against terrorism and organized crime on the other. This approach requires to establish a balance between free flow of people and goods and the need to ensure countries' national security and interests.

Close coordination and cooperation among states and international organizations will have a direct and positive impact on confronting new challenges.

Measures related to border security and management should be based on norms enshrined in the OSCE documents and principles of international law, particularly inviolability of borders and territorial integrity.

When talking about open borders one should not overlook the fact that political, economic and social factors as well as ongoing conflicts have a direct bearing on individual policy choices in this field.

We think that a flexible approach is necessary in order to adopt realistic and practical policies on border security and management.

Effective control of borders, while keeping these borders open is an important element of general security policy of Turkey due to its geo-strategic location and physical conditions of its eastern and southeastern borders.

With this in mind, Turkey has been carrying out an intense program in order to harmonize its border management system with that of the EU since September 2002.

In this framework, Turkey has established a Task Force, composed of all relevant government agencies responsible for border management, asylum and migration. The Task Force completed its work, as a result of which a Strategy Paper was adopted and submitted to the European Commission in April 2003.

This Strategy Paper refers to the consensus reached by all of the agencies on the establishment of a non-military, professional “Border Guard Unit” within the Turkish Ministry of Interior. The transfer from the current border protection system is to be realized gradually.

The preparation of a comprehensive feasibility study on the establishment of such a Unit for the strengthening of border management of Turkey will be the objective of the EU Twinning Project on Border Management, which will commence in July 2004 between the Turkish Ministry of Interior, France and the UK.