



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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OSCE Annual Security Review Conference

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Opening Session

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Statement by HE Cristian Istrate,

Ambassador of Romania to the International Organizations in Vienna

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Participants,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for organizing this conference, which is a central event for the *pol-mil* agenda of the OSCE and welcome and appreciate the thought-provoking contributions of the keynote speakers. We applaud what has already become a tradition of organizing **Security Days** before the ASRC, as a **platform for engaging civil society and academic community, and generating creative ideas**. We commend the Secretary General for this initiative.

While approaching the 40th anniversary of the **Helsinki Final Act**, we need **vision, political will, dialogue, and cooperation** for both identifying the challenges we face in building the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community and the solutions to these challenges.

Romania does not believe that the OSCE is less relevant than it used to be at the inception of the CSCE. It is the only table at which we sit altogether at the regional level all countries from Vancouver to Vladivostok. What else gives the **special flavor of the OSCE**, besides providing such a large and inclusive table? We would say that our staunch supporters on a daily basis - the Secretariat, the OSCE autonomous institutions – HCNM, RFOM and ODIHR – which are doing their fantastic job, and the OSCE field presences. The Parliamentary Assembly also plays its distinctive role complementing the governmental setting. At this large table with very diverse participants, on the basis of the concept of comprehensive and cross-dimensional security, we can discuss our concerns, we can share what we do best, we can propose what we think could bring us forward and most important we can adopt decisions together. All these may seem truisms but they are not ... especially when we come to adopting decisions.

All the above mentioned show that the **relevance of the organization is still there**, OSCE has indeed its clear added-value. But what is worrying is that the **common denominator** among the 57 participating States seems to be continuously diminishing. There are fewer issues on which we can agree and there are issues which we agreed before but some of us do not accept anymore. But this should not be labeled as lack of relevance of the OSCE, but **lack**



of political will of its participating States. We need to find the cause of the problem, because **without finding the cause we can not find the solution**. And the **Helsinki+40 Process** should help us find solutions, to make progress towards the creation of the Security Community we all aim at, on the basis of a comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach .

In this context, no substantial progress in achieving the Security Community can be realized while maintaining grey zones and leaving unresolved the **conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference**. Progress in achieving the Security Community will be elusive if conflicts are not resolved. It is frustrating for some of us that again and again we hear the countries affected by conflicts voicing their discontents, it is an impression of *déjà vu*. But *status quo* is unacceptable and highly detrimental to our security. Protracted conflicts remain serious threats to the security of the entire OSCE area. We can no longer afford to think in a long-term mode about their resolution. Therefore, we have to muster the political will to resolve these conflicts that have hampered for too long our common peace and security. Registering tangible progress in the settlement of these conflicts needs to be on our daily agenda, including at high political level, and result-oriented debates on these issues should be integral part of the Helsinki+40 Process.

We welcome the pace of implementation of the Ministerial Decision in Vilnius regarding certain elements of the **conflict cycle** by the institutions and executive structures and the continuation of discussions among participating States on this topic. We support exploring more in-depth means to strengthen the OSCE contribution in areas such as conflict resolution. However, political will remains at the core of both fully utilizing the OSCE capacities and developing its capabilities in new domains.

In this context, Romania will host a *Conference on Mediation in the OSCE Area* on 15 – 16 July 2013, in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and the Centre for Conflict Prevention of the OSCE Secretariat. The event aims at raising awareness about the essential role of mediation in all phases of the conflict cycle and about the challenges faced in this field. It is also intended to **explore ways to strengthen mediation efforts** within the OSCE area, as part of the global efforts to maintain peace and security. The Conference is also a concrete contribution to the Helsinki+40 Process.

On that occasion, we are indeed looking forward to welcoming in Bucharest **H.E. Leonid Kozhara, Foreign Minister of Ukraine and Chairman-in-office of OSCE, and H.E. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General**.

We have extended invitations to **all participating States and Partners for cooperation**, as well as to representatives of international organizations, academic experts and civil society. We will be most happy to welcome OSCE colleagues from Vienna and capitals, in Bucharest, at the Palace of Parliament. We are convinced that with your valuable contributions to the debate, the event will be a reference point in the overall efforts to enhance the OSCE role on mediation.

Dear colleagues,

Let me say a few words on the military aspects of the OSCE's First Dimension. Romania attaches great importance to the **OSCE *acquis* of principles and commitments in the field**



of arms control and CSBMs, which remains essential for the strategic goal of military stability, transparency, security and cooperation in Europe. We are very concerned by the gradual deterioration of the compliance level with regard to the arms control and CSBMs obligations.

Conventional arms control in Europe is advancing **from a time of reflection to a phase of featuring options for the future**. We can discuss about moving forward regarding arms control regime but future talks should not start from the scratch as long as there is a solid foundation to build on. The CFE Treaty, with all its elements and principles, including host nation consent, proved its functionality and value over the years and continues to have a strategic importance for the European security.

We continue to stress that in order to find solutions to the current stalemate we need to **build upon existing obligations and commitments and to take into consideration the security concerns of each and every participating State**.

In the field of transnational threats, we should strive to adopt a **first set of confidence-building measures in the field of cyber security**, identifying the right niche for the OSCE, and not duplicating the efforts of other international organizations. We have already preliminarily agreed upon some confidence-building measures, this means we are much closer than we were last year. However, the intricate issues which still remain should be tackled having in mind that starting exchange of information to enhance cyber security **will also give a boost to the Helsinki+40 Process. It will show that something is moving in the right direction**. Implementation of the strategic mandates adopted in 2012 should preserve and even enhance the brands of the OSCE. At the same time, the tools we have should help us give visibility and further substance to the OSCE efforts to tackle the challenges, including those stemming from **Afghanistan**.

Dear colleagues,

My delegation looks forward to in-depth discussions and we wish the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office success in the run up to the Kyiv Ministerial Council. Romania stands ready to contribute constructively to the achievement of meaningful results in Kyiv and beyond, charting our way towards the Security Community.

Thank you very much for your attention!