

**2004 Mediterranean Seminar on Addressing Threats to Security in the
Twenty-First Century: Interaction between the OSCE and the
Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation**

Session 1: Co-operative security - reducing risks and building confidence

Building viable security: Democracy, human rights and the rule of law

**Intervention by Ambassador Kirsten Biering,
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the OSCE**

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you also to our hosts for organizing this seminar.

We are pleased to see that the Mediterranean Dimension of the OSCE is developing so significantly and to note the interest on both sides of the Mediterranean to look for possibilities for further coordinated action.

There is a growing awareness, expressed in several interventions this morning, that the many different elements of security which present themselves today should be seen as a whole. Security is indivisible. In the words of Ambassador Shoukry, we should not view our regions or their development through a narrow prism.

Basic to our discussion are the notions of cooperation and comprehensiveness. Over the years, OSCE participating States have profited by the inclusive, three-dimensional approach of the OSCE, and we have come to realise that viable stability and security can only be achieved by addressing collectively challenges to them across all three dimensions. No country and no region can tackle the challenges alone, nor should we attempt to go about our business in a one-issue manner. In this spirit the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 57/145 of

January last year. The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century is set firmly in the context of contributing to such necessary global efforts.

It is worth recalling that within its comprehensive framework, the Strategy places respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law at the core. Strong democratic institutions and the rule of law not only play an important role in preventing threats from arising. Failure to ensure adequate and functioning democratic institutions may in themselves constitute a breeding ground for a range of threats to security and stability that are facing us.

Equally important is the way in which the Strategy reaches out to the Mediterranean Partners, highlighting the possibility of identification of areas of common interest and possibilities for further coordinated action as well as the voluntary implementation of principles and commitments of the OSCE. This element for building cooperative security should remain a guiding light. I quite agree with Mr Vasconcelos that we must aim for practical results of such endeavours, whatever their framework.

Mr Chairman,

Since our participation in Aqaba - where the possibility of establishing an informal dialogue at academic/civil society level was supported by many delegations - we have ourselves explored the possibilities of encouraging such steps. I am pleased to inform you that the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) have decided to launch a project to examine, in cooperation with counterparts in Partner States, whether the experiences of the OSCE within

its three dimensions could work as points of inspiration for others. In a first workshop for experts and NGO's, which is planned to take place in Istanbul in January, the organizers will focus on the democratization efforts taking place in this region and take further steps towards networking.

We all agree, of course, that experiences of some states cannot, and should not, be imposed on other states. However, it is possible to inspire and facilitate efforts that are already taking place - in this respect let me refer to the documents from amongst others the Arab League Summit in Tunisia in May and the Alexandria Library meeting in March. Facilitation in this context would mean no more than taking into account relevant experiences. Let me also once again recall the OSCE's status as a regional security organisation under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and the before-mentioned General Assembly Resolution, which links the OSCE in a coherent and direct fashion to the global discussion of the challenges before us.

A final point, Mr Chair. We have also noted a growing interest in the human dimension this year. Interaction has taken place in the field of election observation, a side event with Partners was conducted at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, and increased contacts were made between delegations in Vienna on the issue of tolerance. We look very much forward to the discussions today and tomorrow in the sessions regarding tolerance and migration.

Cooperation and comprehensiveness remain the valid basic concept of the OSCE, relevant north as well as south of the Mediterranean basin. Let us continue in a systematic and structured fashion to see how we can best make use of it.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.