



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris P. Droutsas

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Special Session of the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 6, 2009

Mr. Minister, we are grateful to you for joining us here today to share your vision and goals for the remainder of Greece's Chairmanship, particularly ahead of the Athens Ministerial next month.

We listened with great interest last week to the presentation by PM Papandreou and welcomed the priorities he outlined.

We share the hopes and efforts Greece has placed in the success of the Corfu Process. We value your articulation of the three guiding principles and fully support them. In particular, we highlight your second principle that all participating States will work toward fulfilling their existing commitments across all three dimensions.

We also share your emphasis on grounding our dialogue in the actual security challenges we are facing today, especially the protracted conflicts that continue to highlight where and how we have fallen short in living up to our commitments.

Your perspective on the OSCE's proven potential as a dialogue multiplier is on target and the progress we have been able to make under the Corfu Process proves it.

We look forward to the Ministerial and will join you in working toward ensuring it provides us with the needed guidance to take the next step in our dialogue.

As you noted, promoting the peaceful resolution of the protracted conflicts has been at the core of the OSCE's mandate from the outset. It should remain one of our principal goals.

We remain focused on efforts to achieve a long-term, peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia. We continue to urge Russia to fulfill its commitments under the August 12 and September 8 agreements. We remain convinced that the continued involvement of the international community is critical. We appreciate the tireless efforts of the Greek Chairmanship in this regard, and remain committed to the OSCE's involvement in Georgia.

We also strongly support efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the Transnistria conflict—one that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and provides for an agreed status for Transnistria that upholds OSCE principles and commitments. We appreciate the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Greek Chairmanship, and welcome the informal 5+2 meeting taking place today.

Mr. Minister, a few comments on the significance of November 9, and the excellent remarks that you, the Austrian Foreign Minister, and former Foreign Minister Genscher made during the ceremony this morning.

In 1954, the Soviet Union proposed a legally binding treaty; others insisted instead that the dialogue had to be broader than a narrow focus on hard security. In the 1970s, after many political developments and discussions, it was agreed that by including the human dimension we could improve security in Europe.

In Madrid for the first time in history, participating States agreed that the treatment of citizens is the foundation for security and peace. They also agreed that the treatment of citizens is a mutual obligation for nations whose security might also be affected. This was no longer seen strictly as a matter of internal affairs. The Helsinki Final Act solidified this concept as a major contribution to security.

The second contribution of the Helsinki Final Act is that the search for peace is a political process, rather than a treaty.

In the last 20 years, the definition of East and West has been receding. The nature of threats has changed. Former Foreign Minister Genscher stated it very clearly this morning: we are facing both old and new threats. The work of the OSCE is not finished.

Alluding to the fact that the fall of the Berlin wall had implications that were far greater than Germany, he said that the role and the responsibility of the OSCE is far greater than the OSCE itself. The OSCE is needed even more today that it was in earlier years.

The OSCE - through the Corfu Process – should help to create a new world order that is needed in our globalized world. And as you said this morning, Mr. Minister, in referring to the OSCE, we need this tool more than ever. We cannot agree with you more! This is our challenge. It should be our mission.

Before concluding I also want to take the opportunity, Mr. Minister, to underscore the excellent leadership here in Vienna displayed by your Delegation, most notably by Ambassador Marinaki. She and her team have been tireless in their efforts to ensure a productive year and have propelled this organization in a new, productive direction. We are grateful to her, we are grateful to you, we are grateful to the Greek delegation, and we are grateful to our colleagues who have entered into the constructive dialogue and the positive political dialogue that is the Corfu process.

Thank you, Madam Chair.