

Address

ENGLISH only

by H.E. Cristian Diaconescu
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

The OSCE Permanent Council
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Madame Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure and an honor to be the first Romanian Foreign Minister to address this prestigious forum after the end of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office in 2001, which was a period of reference for Romania's foreign policy. It was, for us, a lesson on leadership and responsibility at the same time, in anticipation of our NATO and EU accession.

Throughout the years, this Organization has managed to be more than a mere forum that provided us with avenues for dialogue; instead, it has been rather an active and dense matrix in which the spirit of cooperative approach has managed to dominate, in which political differences were many times skillfully approached and creative solutions identified.

What made the OSCE stand out within the international institutional system is clearly its unchallenged capacity to generate confidence - whether we speak of building, sharing or consolidating it. Tools in this enterprise were and remain transparency, a constructive and inclusive approach, topped with a good share of flexibility.

Benefiting from its assistance is a two track steady path - on one hand it helps Participating States to improve their record in ensuring or, upon the case, maintaining their good record in matters that we all have defined about 35 years ago under common values and principles; on the other, in subsidiary, it has the plus that seeks to *unite* us in this *common denominator* which the Participating States have agreed upon, *irrespective* of the different courses defined for their foreign policy, political or military-, economy-, and financial-based alliances. Romania has come along this way steadily, trying to do it with perseverance and consistence.

Romania is a strong believer in the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. It is this concept - encapsulating all three dimensions - that keeps the OSCE highly relevant for Romania's security concept.

Madame Chairperson,

The commitments undertaken under the ***human dimension*** throughout the years are guiding principles for Romania, in terms of both our domestic developments and our foreign policy. OSCE can make a major difference in assisting States in laying and developing the foundations of a democratic society. Romania took full advantage of this OSCE expertise in our transition to a democratic society.

We are grateful to the OSCE institutions, the ODIHR, the Representative for Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner for National Minorities, for their assistance in the process of continuously strengthening our democracy.

It is this direct experience of benefiting from the OSCE expertise that makes us promote it to other countries in our bilateral relations and generates our contributions in the multilateral framework, including through hosting events such as the High-level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding (Bucharest, 6-8 June 2007), the Regional Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism (Bucharest, 17-18 September 2008) to name just two recent examples. Free and fair elections, freedom of the media, freedom of assembly, respect for the rights of national minorities, improving the situation of Roma and Sinti, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, including combating Anti-Semitism are issues that concern us directly and have great relevance for the human dimension throughout the OSCE. We are pleased to see most of these undertaken as priorities of the Greek Chairmanship and we look forward to bringing our contribution for defending and strengthening our commitments in the face of new challenges.

This Monday, at the GAERC meeting, we discussed the developments in the vicinity of the EU. Romania supports the development of the goal-oriented **Eastern Partnership** and we encourage all invited states to participate in this framework.

Concerning **Transnistria**, it is very important that the Republic of Moldova figure out a political and constitutional solutions in relation with Transnistria. I would also like to stress that our interest in having political stability is more acute than ever. The Transnistrian factor is already a factor of primary concern for us and we constantly pointed out the danger of the protracted conflicts on the Eastern border of the EU.

Regarding the Transnistria file, the “5+2” format should remain the only framework for reaching a fair and long-lasting political agreement. That is why we strongly support the upgrade of the US and EU present status from observer to mediator in the “5+2” format.

We fully encourage the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria to hammer out political and constitutional solutions within the “5+2” framework in order to achieve a sustainable solution.

Madam Chairperson,

OSCE's trademarks in conflict resolution

The OSCE has earned itself an uncontested position of leadership when it comes to confidence building, an outcome for which we should not forget that engagement in good faith is a prerequisite. And it goes hand in hand with conflict prevention and settlement. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the OSCE pursues active involvement on this dimension in all the three so called “frozen” or “protracted conflicts”, in which it has been designed a function for - be it the Transnistrian conflict settlement; the conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia; or the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference.

Conflict prevention should remain the overarching goal of this organization, while a common denominator for pursuing it can be found in supporting the work of OSCE's

Institutions, in the efficient use of its existing mechanisms and with the consent of all Participating States to share both common values and a sense of common purpose.

Confidence building should not become a goal in itself, but remain a means critical in progress of seeking for peaceful and negotiated solutions to existing conflicts in the OSCE area.

It is in this context that we welcome recently announced intentions of the OSCE, with support from the Greek Chairperson, to organize a seminar on *confidence- and security-building measures in the military field*. The same appreciation goes to its assistance towards boosting the work on confidence-building measures in the social, economic and legal spheres, seeking to improve the lives of people on both banks of the Nistru river and resolve a number of key questions involving the free movement of people and goods.

Future OSCE presence in Georgia:

Last year's military crisis in *Georgia* has marked the dynamics and the substance of the OSCE agenda. Its impact has gone beyond regional implications. Some realities covered by the previous mandate may have become obsolete or may have required refinement, especially the segment dealing with the conflict resolution. It is true that as far as the conflict component of the mandate is concerned, the Agreements of 12th August and 8th September 2008, provided the international community, including the OSCE, with a new legal framework seeking to ensure security and stability in the conflict zone.

In our pursuit of consensus over the mandate of a new future OSCE presence in Georgia, we should seek to *avoid keeping it hostage* to "realities" that have been imposed unilaterally and artificially. While these may have their part in challenging the validity of conflict resolution component laid down in the previous mandate, we see no reason why Georgia should be deprived of the beneficial assistance that the OSCE continues to extend on the ground in terms of the usual cross-dimensional mandate of the OSCE field operations. As much as the previous conflict resolution segment is concerned in the light of last August's events, we see no less than natural monitoring activities on both sides of the August conflict zone with OSCE military observers access being granted to relevant areas. Therefore, we fully concur with the Chairmanship-in-Office assessment that a solution for the OSCE Presence in Georgia should be technical and not political, and support the concrete draft decision encapsulating this approach, which it has put forward. No new mandate should question or cast doubt with respect to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

And this approach continues to guide our position on solving *all* the so-called "protracted conflicts", without any concessions. Ensuring respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of OSCE's Participating States is the *red line* in working out any compromise solution to them.

The input and assistance rendered by the OSCE institutions and mechanisms to facilitating attaining a peaceful and negotiated solution to ***the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Group***, by its co-chairs and by the Chairmanship-in-Office Personal Representative continue to be relevant and we support them. However, their

relevance is conditioned by a very basic precondition - existence of political will of both authorities in Armenia and Azerbaijan to maintain a dialogue which can generate a compromise solution with respect of international principles and norms, as reflected in the Helsinki Final Act and Madrid document.

The OSCE field Missions and Offices in the **Western Balkans** represent an useful instrument for promoting democratisation, full implementation of rule of law and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also has the potential to boost regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations, thus enhancing the stability, security and prosperity in the area. Romania deeply values the work of the OSCE presence in this region.

**Madame Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,**

In the current context, when economic and environmental challenges affect significantly our citizens, we have to instrumentalize the **second dimension** for generating part of the answers to these challenges. We are honored to fulfill the task of currently chairing the Economic and Environmental Committee, in the framework of which we will strive to generate a meaningful, result-oriented dialogue among the Participating States.

Energy security is an issue that challenges Romania, begging for sustainable and predictable solutions that cannot be found without most of the countries in the OSCE region. It is high-time we capitalized on the benefits the OSCE offers as a platform of dialogue in this field, according to the ministerial decision adopted in Brussels, and look more diligently into what the OSCE can offer as part of the answer to this issue.

Romania has known various aspects of migration and starts experiencing new ones. As an Eastern border of the EU and in the context of its efforts to join the Schengen area, also taking into account our emigration experiences, we are highly interested in combating illegal migration, creating and managing legal migration, ensuring the human, social and economic rights of migrants, investing remittances and coping with dwindling remittances in the context of the economic downturn. We look forward to the recommendations of this year's Economic and Environmental Forum and to their implementation in the upcoming years.

Climate change is an issue that we can no longer afford to neglect. We believe that the OSCE can bring added value to the debate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office in view of facilitating a comprehensive debate in the framework of OSCE on the **future of the European security**.

We stand ready to bring our contribution to the debate, alongside our partners and allies, and look forward to indentifying answers to the many questions we still have regarding this initiative. In order to get the right answers we will have to stick to the cross-dimensional format for the debate, as security in Europe can only be approached comprehensively.

In Romania's point of view, any such debate should cast no doubt on the efficiency of the existing security arrangements. It should be based on current commitments, norms, values, principles and mechanisms. It should be comprehensive and address the security concerns of all Participating States.

I would like to briefly recall the strengths of the current security arrangements:

- *Comprehensiveness*: They are the most elaborate and encompassing security framework enjoyed by any region in the world, a finely balanced system of treaties, structures, norms and consensually contracted commitments that all the Euro-Atlantic countries, including the Russian Federation and the United States, are part of, result of decades of negotiations and commonly agreed constant readjustments.
- *Multidimensionality*: The effectiveness of these arrangements lays with their comprehensive and structural set up: the three baskets/pillars (hard security, human rights and the economics), interlinked in a wise and forward-looking holistic approach to security which has allowed the participants to leave behind the Cold War and prosper in the world that followed.
- *Effectiveness*: Though not perfect, their effectiveness has been proven by the fact that most of the time, across most of the concerned areas, violent conflicts have been avoided.
- *Consensus*: While any decision being taken by consensus, each and every member is legitimate in speaking its mind and putting forward ideas that might help advance further the efficiency of the system.

The existing institutions and structures have indeed served us well and our priority should be to seek ways for strengthening them. A better use of existing mechanisms at our disposal would have allowed for some recent crises to be avoided.

From this perspective, the main shortfall we can identify is the lack of implementation of existing commitments and principles. Therefore, the debate on the future of European security should focus primarily on the need for full implementation of existing agreements and principles.

The full respect for the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter must remain the core of the European system and international law order. Last year's conflict in Georgia stands as an example of how vulnerable the international system can get in absence of full observance of existing fundamental principles.

Romania remains concerned about the perspectives of the **CFE regime**. We continue to stress its relevance for the Euro-Atlantic security and its valuable contribution to the strengthening of transparency, predictability and confidence in Europe.

Your Excellencies,

We remain convinced that overcoming mistrust and improving the overall security in Europe can be possible only through dialogue and equal concern for the interests of all Participating States. The Chairmanship in Office has the responsibility of steering the wheel of our Organisation.

Allow me, Madame Chairperson, to express my thanks, through You, to the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office, for its tireless efforts undertaken in promoting OSCE values, norms and principles, since January. May I reassure You, if still needed, of the full support of my country throughout your mandate.

I thank you.