



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE area**

**Closing session –Tuesday 7 July**

**Mr Dionyssios Kyvetos, Minister Counsellor**

**Deputy Head of the Mission of Greece to the OSCE**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are approaching the end of this Conference in the historical and delightful city of Bratislava, and, like you, I believe that our discussions were interesting and fruitful. This is proven by the wide spectrum of participants, as well as the substantial and thought-provoking exchange of views.

The primary goal of the Greek Chairmanship throughout 2009 is to focus all efforts towards making the best use of the added value of OSCE, as well as of its mechanisms, in order to address the most important and burning challenges, to the interest of the pS. And to address them in a way that promotes dialogue and brings a step forward cooperation under the auspices of the international community.

This is exactly what we tried to do with respect to the second dimension and, more particularly, with the thematic area of Energy Security.

We deemed it necessary to develop a more focused and technical dialogue in order to provide the possibility to the participating States to express views and proposals on issues of common interest or, even, to express points of divergence.

During the Conference we listened to the views expressed by Participating states and representatives of international organizations. It seems to me that the point of convergence is that energy security remains an issue of particular importance for every country -- even though participating States experience this from different perspectives, as producers, as consumers or as transit countries.

One aspect particularly highlighted, was the importance of international cooperation.

The rising development of interdependence, as a result of globalization, as well as the recent developments of the economic crisis, complicate the problem, while its multifaceted character calls for a more focused and coordinated approach, as a response from the part of the international community.

And this is exactly where we believe that OSCE should play a substantial role.

The OSCE is not the only Organization which deals with Energy Security. There are other, more focused Organizations, which tackle the issue from their own perspective. Some are mainly economy-oriented, some are more legal-oriented, while others are more of a political nature. However, the OSCE has some unique tools to help them in implementing their mandates. Improving the dialogue on Energy Security, means that, by combining efforts, we make the best use of the comparative advantages of each one of them, in order to act collectively and in a coordinated way.

As I already mentioned, the economic crisis is shaking many economies and we do not have any clear indication yet, on when this will come to an end. Under these circumstances, the economy needs predictability and energy is a key area where this is most required.

During the Conference we had the opportunity to hear about challenges, potential threats, trends and developments in the energy sector. And even though I think that this Conference served its purpose to the fullest, the subject is, by no means, exhausted. The work done today provided us with the basis to elaborate more on issues of common interest.

And, in this respect, we are thankful to the OSCE Secretariat for its readiness to produce a summary of this meeting, highlighting points, where discussions could be further developed, on matters which would enable improvement of the energy security dialogue.

I wish to close my intervention and my concluding remarks, by saying that there were many factors which contributed to the success of this Conference. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the Slovak Republic for the excellent organization of this Conference and the warm hospitality, our colleagues from the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Secretariat, the speakers, the moderators, the rapporteurs and the interpreters, as well as the Delegation of the United States of America to the OSCE for its financial contribution.

Last but not least, I would like to warmly thank all the participants for their substantial cooperation and wish you a safe trip back home.