



**Intervention by Deputy Director-General Mr. Nils Daag, Swedish MFA,
at the opening session of the ASRC, June 14, 2010**

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the European Union, but I would like to add some points from a Swedish perspective on the role of the OSCE in the security field. At the outset, let me stress the great importance that the Government of Sweden attaches to the dialogue on European Security launched in the OSCE last year. The dialogue has triggered a new and positive dynamic in the organization.

Mr Chairman,

The success of this dialogue will be measured by our handling of the real security issues. As we speak, the capabilities and credibility of the OSCE in the field is put to a major test. I join the previous speakers in expressing my condolences to the families of the victims in Kyrgyzstan. The alarming situation there must be at the top of our agenda. I applaud the initiative of the High Commissioner for National Minorities, Knut Vollebaek, for issuing a warning on the risk for further deterioration of the inter-ethnic situation in Kyrgyzstan, which

would constitute a threat to regional peace and security. We fully share this assessment. The EU has underlined, since the dramatic events in April, that further action should be taken to enhance the OSCE's presence in Kyrgyzstan, as necessary and on the basis of agreement between Kyrgyzstan and the OSCE. We stand ready to support such measures.

Mr Chairman,

The OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens last December signalled that the OSCE is ready to take on the challenge to address the real security threats in our common space.

Therefore, the Corfu Process has a great potential to restore trust and confidence between states in the OSCE area, making it more secure. We expect that this opportunity will be seized upon in the Interim Report and at the upcoming informal ministerial meeting in July , which should have the Corfu Process at its heart.

The dialogue on European Security must continue to be anchored in the OSCE, which is the only political forum that can bring together all actors in the region in a continuous strategic, open and equal dialogue, with the potential of exploring new cooperative efforts. The Corfu process is *the* process on, and should remain the main framework for, the debate on pan-European security.

The OSCE has a unique strength. It is not about either or. It is about human rights and arms control. It is about transnational, inter-state and internal challenges. It is about engaging throughout the whole OSCE area, not least through our field missions. Neither does engagement within OSCE exclude co-operation with relevant international and regional organisation. The excellent co-operation between the OSCE and other international organisation in the field is a good example of this. Not least in the Balkans - Kosovo is one case in point.

Mr Chairman,

We have a security system in Europe that we are content with. It has served us well. We should be very careful not to undermine what we have achieved. We must build on existing security architecture and the existing OSCE acquis and commitment to full implementation. We remain committed to the concept of comprehensive, cooperative, indivisible and cross-dimensional security, which is based on a wide-ranging set of agreed principles and commitments. In other words, we must move towards an OSCE+, not an OSCE a la carte.

Mr Chairman,

We must now focus on taking forward concrete proposals within the areas identified in the Corfu decision. We should move forward in a comprehensive way, making process over the

board. Sweden will engage constructively on all topics, but is particularly interested in three areas:

First, progress on conflict prevention and resolution – including the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Nagorno-Karabach where very concrete steps could and should be taken to improve trust and confidence;

Second, the human dimension where improved follow-up of implementation is key along with media freedom - not least on the Internet. Let me say here that there are a number of constructive proposals in this field that received strong support in the Corfu meeting on the Human Dimension but in our view has not been fully reflected in the records. I trust that they will be covered in the interim report;

Third, conventional arms control and CSBMs, including the Vienna Document 1999, the Treaty on Open Skies and the CFE Treaty. Arms control regimes provides transparency, predictability and confidence in Europe. It is important that future development of arms control regimes, which are relevant for all OSCE participating states, also are discussed in an inclusive way – at 56.

Thank you for the attention!