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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HEINER HORSTEN AT THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Vienna, 16 June 2010

Working Session V: Review of OSCE police-related activities

Mr. Chairperson,

First we wish to thank Dr. Cerrah warmly for his interesting presentation.

Police work is an area in which the OSCE has demonstrated its usefulness in the past years. Germany sees efficient, democratic, citizen-friendly police work as an essential tool for effective conflict prevention and sustainable crisis management.

Beginning with the 1999 Istanbul Summit, at which the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities was recognized as an integral part of conflict prevention and crisis management efforts, and continuing with the relevant decisions of the 2001 Ministerial Council meeting in Bucharest and the so-called "Maastricht Strategy" of 2003, the OSCE approach has evolved steadily. Civilian police-related activities are now a fixed component of nearly all OSCE field missions.

Recently, activities in this field have also taken on an important role in our common efforts to deal with transnational threats.

In view of the constantly growing significance of this area, we introduced proposals last year – first jointly with France and Sweden, and then with other participating States – for the further improvement of OSCE police-related activities. On the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens, they were ultimately endorsed by the Permanent Council as an important basis for further planning work.

The success of the initiative, which was welcomed by many other participating States already at the beginning of the discussions, shows today that we were right. We can be satisfied with what has so far been achieved – the Secretary General's report of 1 April 2010, his intense consultations during the meeting of police experts this year in May and today's consideration of the topic at the Annual Security Review Conference.

However, we are still at an early stage in the work on the adoption of an action plan that will provide strategic guidelines for future OSCE activities with regard to police matters.

For the near future, improvements in three areas seem necessary and also possible:

- Firstly, co-operation between the OSCE and other international actors must be improved; here our field missions represent an important tool.
- Secondly, the co-ordination of ongoing activities within the OSCE must be constantly optimized and adapted; this is true both for work processes within the Secretariat and for co-ordination between field missions, the Secretariat and the institutions.
- Thirdly, regional and cross-border co-operation between the participating States must be promoted. Here we should make use, *inter alia*, of the potential of regional OSCE structures like the OSCE Academy in Bishkek or the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.

Mr. Chairperson, Germany is ready to continue to co-operate actively in this important, future-oriented work and to take on responsibilities.