



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY ÖMER BURHAN TÜZEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL, DISARMAMENT AND OSCE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AT THE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
SESSION III, JULY 1, 2011**

Mr. Moderator,

The Vienna Document 99, the CFE and the Open Skies Treaties, constitute the three main pillars of the conventional security architecture in Europe.

While all three instruments are mutually reinforcing, yet they all have their distinctive merits and cannot substitute for one another. I will first dwell upon the VD 99, since this is the only instrument among the three which has been concluded within the OSCE.

Last updated in Istanbul in 1999, Turkey has been a consistent advocate of reviewing both the thresholds, as well as upgrading the implementation of the VD, in light of the new security environment in Europe, including changes in military doctrines and strategies.

We note with satisfaction the structured debate underway at the FSC with the aim of updating the VD.

While it would be desirable to achieve substantive deliverables already by the Vilnius Ministerial Council, however, it would also be prudent not to cut corners for the sake of ambition or pragmatism. Let us consolidate all possible deliverables for Vilnius, but keep the process alive and running beyond.

We are concerned however that some signatories who have been enthusiastic supporters of a comprehensive review in the not so distant past, are now having second thoughts and attempting to limit the exercise with modernizing and upgrading the implementation aspects of the VD only.

We also note with concern tendencies to compensate for the lack of transparency as a result of the suspension of the CFE Treaty by one State Party, by revising the VD in such a way as to change the inherent character of this CSBM regime.

Let us be aware that the legally binding provisions of the CFE regime cannot be substituted by politically binding commitments within the framework of the VD.

Moreover, upgrading and modernizing the various provisions of the VD must conform to the principle of the indivisibility of security. It makes little sense to increase the inspection quotas while subjective interpretations of the “force majeure” clause effectively close off certain geographical areas in the area of application, thus creating “grey zones”, where the provisions of the VD are not implemented. Turkey will not entertain unilateral commitments.

While Turkey is ready to examine all proposals, including lowering of thresholds, information exchange on multi-national rapid reaction forces and large scale military transits, however, we will uphold the principle of equal implementation in all cases, which must include all forces in the area of application unequivocally and without any geographical privileges for some signatories.

Now with regard to the CFE, the cornerstone of the European conventional security architecture. The CFE is in dire straits.

Turkey strongly believes that in the existing political conjuncture a better and more comprehensive conventional arms control regime cannot be negotiated.

Nevertheless, attempts at overcoming the current stalemate by rolling back or scaling down the existing legal and political commitments should not be contemplated.

We welcomed the “at 36 level” consultations initiated recently and though progress has been slow and painstaking, the momentum must not be lost.

The current pause in the deliberations “at 36 level” must not be allowed to stagnate and become permanent. The onus is on all of us to use the time until the CFE Review Conference this fall, for serious reflection with a view to reviving the talks soon afterwards.

We believe, the basic parameters for a successful updating of the CFE Treaty can be summarized as follows:

- Maintaining the legally binding nature of the regime
- Maintaining the balance in the three pillars of the regime, namely numerical limitations, information exchange and verification
- Maintaining the integrity of the Flank Regime, without which regional security and stability in the volatile Caucasus region cannot be upheld

The creation of a vacuum has been averted so far due to the restraint of the other States Parties in implementing their commitments stemming from the Treaty. However, this situation cannot continue indefinitely and an unraveling begins. Let us utilize the CFE Review Conference to turn the tide.

And finally, regarding the Open Skies Treaty, Turkey is fully committed to restoring the OSCC to its original purpose: that of addressing concrete implementation issues.

While the Treaty is clear in providing the right for any party to raise an issue for discussion before the OSCC as stated in Ms. Gottmoeller’s statement with which we concur, it is equally clear in stipulating the adoption of the agenda by consensus.

We welcome the impartial efforts of the Estonian Chair so far and expect the current professionalism to be maintained.

In the interim period, until such a solution is found, the flexibilities inherent in the Treaty should be allowed to be utilized in order to enable OSCC meetings to be held with a limited agenda thus allowing those 14 decisions referred to by my Spanish colleague to be taken.

Thank you.