



Vienna

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Sweden
Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringéus
at the 42nd Joint FSC-PC
on Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in the OSCE area
10 March 2010**

Madam Chairperson,

Sweden fully shares the views expressed in the EU statement. Nevertheless, I would like to make a few comments in my national capacity, all relating directly to concrete proposals.

First, my country co-sponsors the initiative so skilfully developed by Finland, France and Poland. We believe that this initiative suggests a good way forward for strengthening the OSCE as a first responder to crisis situations, by combining a number of very relevant practical proposals with a clear strategic and political vision. For an OSCE Plus we will need both - an upgrading of our capacity and a stronger political buy-in by the participating states.

Second, we welcome the proposals presented by other participating states. In our view, most of them are complementary or supplementary to the initiative that Sweden co-sponsors. We value the proposal on post-conflict rehabilitation put forward by Romania, Slovakia and the UK. We see much merit in the very substantial US proposal on enhancing the possibilities for early action by deployment of small expert teams to an area of concern for a limited time. This clearly has been a bottle-neck, including in the run-up to the war in Georgia and we must seek to address it, while respecting the rule of consensus-based decision-making. Furthermore, we look forward to discussing the guiding principles for conflict management, the topic of the Russian contribution.

Third, we must never lose sight of the protracted conflicts themselves. This is a difficult and delicate business, but it is our core business and one we should try to address in order to explore the full potential of the Corfu process. In this context, Sweden would like to express its appreciation of the suggestion made by Moldova at the Corfu meeting on February 23, and reiterated today, to consider holding thematic, Corfu-style discussions on one or more of the protracted conflicts. We also welcome the recent holding of an informal 5+2 meeting on the Transnistrian settlement process, and the Chairmanship's clearly stated objective to resume formal 5+2 meetings this year. As we have said on many occasions, progress on the protracted conflicts would provide a very important impetus to the dialogue on European security.

Finally, I would like to refer to the MC Decision 16/09 on Issues relevant to the FSC, which tasks us to explore ways to strengthen the OSCE's politico-military toolbox. This includes strengthening the Vienna Document, as well as to contribute to improving OSCE procedures and mechanisms in the area of crisis management.

There is now a proposal in the FSC to update chapter V and IX of the Vienna Document 1999, where the latter chapter concerns compliance and verification. In this context, Sweden intends to put forward a proposal to give extra active inspection quotas to the participating State holding the OSCE chairmanship. Those quotas would be in addition to the regular inspection quotas. They would not be connected to any specific participating State, and they would not be subject to the so called "quota-race".

We also propose that the active inspection team of those inspections should be double-sized, with no restrictions to number of nationalities, thereby offering enhanced transparency. To reduce the financial burden for the State receiving such an extra inspection, one could consider using the Open Skies mechanism by which the inspecting state assumes the daily costs for the inspectors.

The purpose of this proposal is to give additional possibilities to the Chairmanship to inspect areas of concern. It would provide an additional tool for risk reduction and conflict prevention, all within the framework of the Vienna Document.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson