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MEETINGS OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL TROIKA
WITH THE PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION
ATHENS, 30 NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT

I. Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

The traditional meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Asian Partners for Co-operation took place on 30 November 2009, on the eve of the Athens Ministerial Council. The agenda focussed on a review of the accomplishments in 2009 and perspectives for future work in 2010. The list of participants is contained in the annex.

In the opening remarks, the representative of the Greek Chairmanship outlined the most important events with the Asian Partners in 2009, such as the appointment of Mr. Theodore Kotsonis as Personal Representative of the CiO for the Asian Partners, the OSCE Japan conference, developments in the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, the adoption of two decisions by the Permanent Council on holding workshops in Mongolia and Thailand respectively and the application by Australia to become an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. In the end, an update was provided on developments in the Corfu process and the expected outcome at the Athens MC. Finland then delivered a detailed report on the work of the Asian Contact Group (MC.GAL/11/09). Kazakhstan, as incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010, noted that its focus will be guided by PC.DEC/571/Corr.1, adopted on the margins of the Maastricht MC. In addition to the mentioned events in Mongolia and Thailand, Kazakhstan would be ready to support other relevant events with the Asian Partners in the course of its Chairmanship. Special attention would continue to be given to OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and to strengthening the links with Asian Parliaments, starting with the planned Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, to be hosted by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in mid-May 2010 in Almaty. As for relations with organizations outside of the OSCE region, a side event with the Asian Partners was planned on the margins of the 3rd CICA Summit, as well as a presentation by CICA at one of the meetings of the Asian Contact Group in 2010. Deepened relations with SCO on countering terrorism would also be supported.

In their statements, the Asian Partners touched on a number of important issues:

Corfu Process. The APCs reiterated their interest in following developments in the Corfu Process and the important interdependence of Asian and OSCE security.

OSCE-Japan conference. All Asian Partners welcomed the outcome of the OSCE-Japan conference, noting in particular that it highlighted the common understanding for the need and importance of CBMs and increased military transparency. A similar conclusion had also been reached at the conference on **Present and Future Security Environment in North-East and Central Asia: Ulaanbaatar - New Helsinki**, held in Ulaanbaatar in April.

Australia as a Partner for Co-operation. The APCs welcomed and fully supported the application by Australia to become an Asian Partner for Co-operation.

OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. The APCs reiterated their support to OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and the package of 16 projects elaborated by the Secretariat in implementation of MC.DEC/04/07. Similarly, the APCs welcomed the OSCE's decision to deploy, for the third time, an election support team to the August presidential elections in Afghanistan. Two APCs had provided extra budgetary contributions to the Secretariat in support of both forms of engagement with Afghanistan (Japan and the Republic of Korea).

Partnership Fund. The APCs expressed unanimous support to the Partnership Fund as an important tool to deepen their engagement with the OSCE, and in particular welcomed decisions Nos. 902 and 903 by the Permanent Council, on holding two 2010 Chairmanship workshops on countering trafficking in human beings and on counter-narcotics in Mongolia and Thailand respectively. They also thanked the members of the Troika, as well as the participating States, for their generous contributions to the Fund, and in particular Finland for sponsoring the participation by Afghan and Mongolian experts in a number of OSCE events.

OSCE annual conference with the Asian Partners in 2010 and 2011. The APCs, as well as the OSCE Troika, thanked Korea for its offer to host the 2010 annual conference with the Asian Partners and looked forward to its positive outcome. They also thanked Mongolia for its offer to host the annual conference in 2011.

Other issues. In addition, support was expressed for strengthening relations with the ARF, noting that the organization shares similar objectives in promoting conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. In particular, mutual visits and exchange of experience were supported, including meetings of the respective Secretaries Generals. Support was also expressed for holding a seminar and training for Asian and in particular Afghan journalists, as originally proposed at the OSCE-Japan conference.

In his remarks, the **Secretary General** noted that the OSCE had enjoyed vital and prosperous relations with the APCs in 2009. Strong solidarity had continued to be expressed in addressing security threats. With regard to Afghanistan, implementation of the 16 projects had not been completed, but work would continue in this direction. An intense exchange had been conducted on security concepts and practical experience, especially at the OSCE-Japan conference. The OSCE looked forward to the 2010 OSCE-Korea conference, as well as the planned workshops in Mongolia and Thailand. Practical co-operation with the ARF was also welcome.

The representative of the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly** noted that the parliamentary dimension of dialogue is essential, since it is the pillar of democracy. The OSCE PA held Central Asia at the centre of its agenda, and would be organizing a number of side events next year. He welcomed the offer by the Kazakh Parliament to host in 2010 the mentioned Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum. He also encouraged the APCs to send their representatives to the Forum.

List of participants

Greece - OSCE Chairmanship

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, Deputy Foreign Minister

Mr. Theodore Kotsonis, Personal Representative of the CiO for the Asian Partners

Finland - Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group

Mr Antti Turunen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE

Kazakhstan - OSCE Troika

Mr Konstantin Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Serzhan Abdykarimov, Ambassador at Large, Director of the OSCE Department

OSCE Secretariat

Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General

Dr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, Head of External Co-operation

Mr. Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Expert

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Finland

Mr Andreas Nothelle, Ambassador, Special Representative

Afghanistan

Mr Abdul Shoogufan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE

Japan

Mr Akio Tanaka, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan to Austria

Mongolia

Mr Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan, Ambassador of Mongolia to Austria, Permanent Representative to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna

Republic of Korea

Mr Yoon-joe Shim, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OSCE

Thailand

Ms Nongnuth Phetcharatana, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the OSCE

II. Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

The traditional meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation took place on 30 November 2009, on the eve of the Athens Ministerial Council. The agenda focussed on a review of the accomplishments in 2009 and perspectives for future work in 2010. The list of participants is contained in the annex.

In the opening remarks, the representative of the Greek Chairmanship outlined some key aspects of work with the Mediterranean Partners in 2009, such as the appointment of Prof. Sotiris Roussos as Personal Representative of the CiO for the Mediterranean Partners, the forthcoming OSCE Mediterranean conference and the forthcoming workshop on an integrated approach to supply chain security in the Mediterranean. The earlier application by the Palestinian National Authority to become a Partner for Co-operation was also mentioned. In the end, an update was provided on developments in the Corfu process and the expected outcome at the Athens MC. Kazakhstan then delivered a detailed report on the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group (MC.GAL/12/09). Lithuania, as incoming Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2010, noted that its focus will be guided by the good work conducted in 2009, especially in identifying priority areas. The importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation was also stressed, for example by holding a joint dialogue between the Mediterranean and the Council of Baltic Sea States. .

In their statements, the Mediterranean Partners touched on a number of important issues.

Corfu Process. The MPCs reiterated their interest in following developments in the Corfu Process and the important interdependence of Mediterranean and OSCE security. The potential contribution by the MPCs to the dialogue on European Security was also emphasized. Consultations with the Partner States were especially important concerning those documents that contained a mention to them.

Partnership Fund. The MPCs recognized the importance of the Partnership Fund as a tool to deepen their engagement in the OSCE. For this, a strategic vision in the short, medium and long term was necessary, and Kazakhstan's efforts at identifying three priority areas for 2010 were praised, which were supported by all MPCs. These are border management and security; countering water scarcity and desertification; sponsored internships/study periods in an executive structure. One MPC noted the importance of concerted dialogue to identify the priorities by consensus among the MPCs.

Tolerance and non-discrimination. The MPCs noted the alarming increase of cases of intolerance. Five MPCs stressed the importance of a follow-up to the 2007 Cordoba conference on discrimination against Muslims, preferably in the form of an OSCE conference. Gratitude was expressed to Kazakhstan for hosting a seminar on tolerance and non discrimination in Astana for the Mediterranean Partners in July. The seminar on media self-regulation was also praised as a good opportunity to reflect on the need to reconcile media autonomy and respect for the other. All MPCs expressed support to the work of the three PRs on tolerance and the need to follow up on their reports. One MPC also supported a discussion on the so-called Amman message on the true nature of Islam, while another noted the importance of data collection on hate crimes.

The Palestinian National Authority as an MPC. Five MPCs supported the PNA's application, believing it could provide a good contribution to debate in the OSCE and would also be a contribution to the peace process in the Middle East. One MPC considered the application premature, as long as the PNA was not a state.

Annual OSCE Mediterranean conference. The MPCs looked forward to the discussion in Cairo. They also expressed the hope that in the future finding the location of the

conference would not be as difficult as in the recent past. However, different views persisted between those supporting rotation among the MPCs only and those supporting a rotation north-south.

Countering the threat of terrorism. MPCs agreed it was one of the highest priorities. The forthcoming workshop on supply chain security was welcomed. One MPC noted the need to counter the sources of financing and the need to criminalise ransom as a possible measure, and another noted terrorism could not be combated by military means alone.

Other issues. Co-operation with regional organizations in the Mediterranean, especially the African Union and the League of Arab States was mentioned by some as an area in which further efforts could be applied. The Secretariat's efforts in this respect were praised. Some MPCs noted with appreciation the initiative by the OSCE PA to hold a yearly Mediterranean Forum. One MPC also noted the importance of holding debates in the PC on the work of the MCG.

In his remarks, the **Secretary General** thanked the delegation of Kazakhstan for its efforts in strengthening the Mediterranean dialogue in the OSCE. The Partnership Fund was in good shape, thanks to the efforts of all. Ten projects had been introduced since inception, some of which came at the suggestion of the MPCs themselves.

The representative of the OSCE **Parliamentary Assembly** recalled the good debate at the Athens Autumn Session of the PA and the earlier seminar in Washington DC convened by the PA President's Special Envoy on the Mediterranean, and noted that the OSCEPA will continue to pay close attention to dialogue with the MPCs.

List of participants

Greece - OSCE Chairmanship

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, Deputy Foreign Minister

Prof. Sotiris Roussos, Personal Representative of the CiO for the Mediterranean Partners

Kazakhstan - Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group

Mr Konstantin Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE

Finland - OSCE Troika

Mr Antti Turunen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE

Lithuania - incoming Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group

Mr Renatas Norkus, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE

OSCE Secretariat

Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General

Dr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, Head of External Co-operation

Mr. Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Expert

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Gustavo Pallares, Deputy Secretary General

Mr Andreas Nothelle, Ambassador, Special Representative

Algeria

Ms Taous Feroukhi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the OSCE

Egypt

Mr Ehab Fawzy, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the OSCE

Israel

Mr Pinchas Avivi, Deputy Director General for Eurasia of the MFA

Mr Aviv Shir-On, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Israel to the OSCE

Jordan

Mr Makram Queisi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the OSCE

Morocco

Mr Omar Zniber, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco

Tunisia

Mr. Abdelhafidh Harguem, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Moncef Hajeri, Ambassador to Greece