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**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

German Chairmanship

Statement by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation at the Opening Plenary Session of the First Annual Security Review Conference

Mr. Chairman,

as Chairman of the Forum for Security Cooperation, the second major body of the OSCE, I am grateful for this opportunity to address the participants of the ASRC.

Let me start by saying that the Forum has undertaken a serious effort to make a substantive contribution to this Conference. Not accidentally, one of its four Working Groups will focus on politico-military affairs. This working group is to be chaired by my esteemed Colleague, Ambassador Zef Mazi of Albania.

Without anticipating the outcome of the ASRC, I believe one thing will come to the fore: the continuing relevance of the first dimension of the OSCE, which is the politico-military dimension, and the undiminished role which the Forum occupies in this regard. As we attempt to deal with threats to security and stability in the 21st century, it leaps to our awareness that we can base ourselves on a unique network of CSBM's and arms control commitments which the FSC has established in past years:

- the Vienna Document of 1999
- the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security
- as more recent initiatives: the Document of Small Arms and Light Weapons and
- ongoing work to address risks associated with stockpiles of ammunition and explosives.

Let us also not forget the arms control treaties which are implemented under OSCE auspices, namely CFE, the Open Skies Treaty and the Dayton agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

my famous countryman von Clausewitz once said: "The unpredictable is the most likely to happen" (Das Unvorhersehbare ist das Wahrscheinliche"). We all will easily agree that we cannot afford to leave things at that stage. With regard to security we will have to make things as predictable and as manageable as possible. I can assure you that the FSC, for one, will not be among those who meets the security challenges of our day by a re-celebration of past achievements. The Porto Ministerial Meeting tasked the OSCE as a whole to respond to emerging threats of the 21st Century, of which terrorism stands out most prominently. The FSC immediately launched an effort to respond. At this point our effort is still ongoing and focussing i.a. in the following areas:

- an intense review of all existing commitments and instruments of the politico-military dimension with a view to identifying their specific quality for combating new threats;
- closer than ever interaction between the FSC and the PC through regular exchanges from the working level up to the top
- deepening cooperation with other international actors, particularly with the UN
- an attempt, at the same time, to give increased relevance to some of our traditional arms control and CSBM instruments by improving their implementation involving, i.a., our field missions to a higher extent than this used to be the case. This refers to the Code of Conduct where we have updated the questionnaire, as well as to the SALW Document, undoubtedly a major asset of the OSCE as a whole. In order to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the SALW Document, the Forum has developed a Handbook of Best Practice Guides, as well as a mechanism to implement Section V of the Document.

In view of the limited time which is at my disposal, I can give you only this glimpse into the current work of the FSC. Much of it will become still more visible during the proceedings of our conference.

Mr. Chairman,

in Porto, OSCE Ministers declared: "Arms control and confidence- and security building measures remain indispensable to our comprehensive approach to security". We are aware that this puts major responsibilities on our shoulders. The FSC is determined to make its contribution. This is bound to be an OSCE-specific contribution which will be based on the unique acquis that our organisation, through the FSC, has at its disposal.

My best wishes to all of you, to all of us, for the success of this effort, and for the success of this Conference.