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Address*
by H.E. Mihai-Răzvan UNGUREANU,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

*on the occasion of the 14th OSCE Ministerial Council
Brussels, 4-5 December 2006*

**Monsieur le Président en exercice,
Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, Chers collègues,
Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Permettez-moi de remercier le Gouvernement belge pour le chaleureux accueil qu'il nous a réservé ici à Bruxelles et pour l'excellente organisation de cette Réunion Ministérielle.

Je saisis cette opportunité pour féliciter Monsieur le ministre De Gucht et son équipe du remarquable guidage qu'ils ont assuré à l'OSCE en tant que Président-en- exercice pendant l'année 2006.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Secrétaire General pour son travail et saluer le premier Rapport présenté depuis la prise de ses fonctions cette année.

Ma délégation s'associe pleinement à la déclaration présentée par la Présidence finlandaise au nom de l'Union Européenne.

Dans mon intervention j'aimerais mettre en évidence quelques aspects du travail de notre organisation, qui sont d'un intérêt tout particulier pour la Roumanie.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania's Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE in 2001 and our further actions demonstrate the importance we attach to the OSCE continuing to play a significant role in addressing challenges to our common security and stability. We remain committed and support all endeavours aimed at increasing the relevance and effectiveness of our organization in a changing international environment. In achieving this goal the implementation of commitments undertaken within the framework of the OSCE is crucial.

We welcome the efforts put this year into strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE, in accordance with the Ljubljana Ministerial Council decision. We particularly commend the adoption by the Ministerial Council of ***the OSCE Rules and Procedures*** and the other decisions aimed at strengthening effectiveness of the OSCE.

The OSCE remains a primary instrument for early warning, preventive diplomacy, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the Euro-Atlantic area. The OSCE Field Missions continued, in 2006, to assist in consolidating and building democratic civil societies based on the rule of law, to prevent local conflict, to restore stability and peace and to overcome real and perceived security deficits. We will continue to lend our full support to the OSCE presences in the field.

* *Extended version*

In South Eastern Europe, where important challenges lie ahead, the consolidated activity of, in particular, the OSCE Mission to **Kosovo**, in close cooperation with the other international presences on the ground, will, in our view, continue to play a supportive role in ensuring a peaceful and democratic evolution in Kosovo and in the region.

However, while assessing the security situation in the OSCE area, one cannot overlook the **persistence of frozen conflicts**. In fact, in resolving regional conflicts the OSCE's record this year is hardly better than in the previous years. We are concerned that lack of progress is seriously undermining the credibility of the OSCE. We therefore think that a new and fresh impetus from the OSCE and by the leaders of Participating States is timely and needed.

Dear Colleagues,

My Government is particularly concerned by the **Transnistrian conflict**. We note and commend the valuable involvement of the **Belgian Chairmanship**, the European Union **and** the United States and, the activity of the EUBAM. Unfortunately, and despite the sustained efforts of the Chairman-in-Office, prospects for conflict resolution are not yet in sight. The parties and the mediators should therefore spare no effort in seeking common ground and ways to bridge differences in order to bring an end to the conflict.

We reaffirm our strong support for reaching a sustainable, lasting and comprehensive political settlement to the Transnistrian conflict, with the respect of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. Continued separatist attempts, like the recent referendum orchestrated by the unrecognized authorities in Tiraspol should be strongly discouraged. One of our main objectives should be the implementation of coherent democratic standards throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova. I therefore reiterate Romania's support for the democratic development of the Moldovan society based on rule of law, respect of human rights, good governance and solid institutions. My authorities stand ready to offer our contribution to this process.

Moreover, we consider that the fulfilment of the **Istanbul commitments** remain key to the resolution of the conflict. One should not forget that a core principle of the CFE Treaty is host country agreement to the stationing of foreign forces. It is the reason why Romania, while remaining firmly committed to moving ahead with **the** ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty, will endeavour to do so only after all the Istanbul commitments on Moldova have been met.

In the case of **Georgia**, we express support for the advancement of the Peace Plan agreed in Ljubljana and commend the positive initiatives taken by the Chairman-in-Office so far, this year, inter alia the Brussels Donors Conference, sustained involvement of the Special Envoy. While supporting the increase of the OSCE monitors and the establishment a joint (Georgian-Russian-OSCE) permanent monitoring presence at the Roki Tunnel, Romania is fully supporting Georgia's efforts to build a democratic society and regain full territorial integrity.

With reference to the conflict in **Nagorno-Karabakh**, my country welcomes all efforts to restore confidence between the parties. The OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission in the fire-affected territories in and around Nagorno-Karabakh was a fruitful initiative in that respect and it is necessary to build on that recent experience.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE has developed in the post Cold War era a comprehensive concept of security that embraces, together with the traditional political and military concerns, the security risks that can originate in other fields. The new dimensions of security (economic, environmental and societal ones) reflect into the way the OSCE developed institutionally. Against this background, I would like to refer to two specific issues that have a clear impact on the work of our organization.

The first issue relates to the ***security – in the widest sense of the word - of the Black Sea region***. Within the Black Sea Region, whether we refer to the neighbouring countries or to the extended region, there is an increasing number of issues, whose settlement require enhanced common efforts.

We consider that the Black Sea region has an important geographical position and potential for development of close and productive relations between Europe and Asia. We are paying increased attention to the Black Sea region which is important for peace, prosperity and stability of the whole OSCE area. I would like to reiterate the interrelation between the Black Sea Region, on the one hand, and Western Europe, on the other hand. Europe imports energy from the extended Black Sea Region and it has the responsibility to export stability and security, by implementing specific actions. The EU security is closely related to its capacity to protect the Black Sea. To this end, Romania is a reliable partner, able to provide an insider perspective on this region.

We believe that *the OSCE could take a fresh look at the extended Black Sea region*, by possibly incorporating a Black Sea cooperation dimension into the mandates of the OSCE missions in the region.

The second issue is ***energy security***. This is a complex issue which requires enhanced dialogue among all those concerned. Romania shares the view that, in order to ensure energy supply security, we need, among other things, to address the issues related to the supply predictability, the supplier-consumer interdependence, the prices transparency and the infrastructure security.

OSCE is not an economic organization. Nevertheless, our comprehensive approach to security requires continued efforts in the implementation of the OSCE commitments in all security dimensions, including the economic one. We need to ensure for our citizens a sustainable economic and social development, and we need to add to our democratic system a sound economic foundation. We think it is therefore necessary to have predictable, reliable, economically acceptable, commercially sound and environmentally-friendly energy supply. The very fact that the OSCE includes energy producing, consuming and transit countries is, for our Organization, an opportunity to address the challenges on energy security.

In this context, let me reiterate our support for strengthening the OSCE Economic Dimension and for the activity of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

We propose that the Permanent Council address next year the issue of ***actions at regional level*** to strengthen peace, prosperity and stability in the OSCE area in order to enhance the cooperation between all concerned.

Dear Colleagues,

Human Dimension work is an area of excellence of the OSCE having ensured for our organization a distinct place in the European security architecture. The OSCE experience is and remains crucial for orienting the Participating States' behaviour in this field. Therefore we

should continuously take the appropriate measures to support the work done by the specific institutions, namely the **ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media**. We would like particularly to commend *Ambassador Strohal* and his team for the excellent report on Common Responsibility, Commitments and Implementation, in response to Ljubljana decision.

Romania welcomes the increased attention and involvement of our Organization in dealing with tolerance and non-discrimination issues. After a successful series of OSCE conferences held on this topics, we focused this year on the implementation of existing commitments. We consider that, next year time has come to increase the level at which we focus on the implementation of the tolerance and non-discrimination commitments and, in this regard, at the end of May 2007, we will be honoured to host the next **OSCE high level conference on combating discrimination, promoting mutual respect and understanding as a follow-up to the OSCE Cordoba Conference on anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance**.

Romania's commitment to further the OSCE norms, principles and commitments on the Human Dimension will benefit from another important platform as we will, from mid-2007 onwards, hold the **Chairmanship of the UN Human Rights Council**.

**Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,**

Before concluding, I would like to wish every success to the incoming Spanish OSCE Chairmanship in 2007. I look forward to cooperating closely with Minister Moratinos and his team, both in Vienna and in different other places relevant for the OSCE.

Let me also assure all participants that, as fully fledged EU member state starting with January 1st 2007, Romania will reconfirm its firm commitment to the underlying mission and objectives of the OSCE.