

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE HOST NATION
BY GENERAL ERTL**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Generals and Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to welcome you to the Hofburg in Vienna on the occasion of the fifth Seminar on Military Doctrine.

Vienna as the headquarters of the OSCE and the Hofburg as a venue for security-related negotiations and talks have a special tradition.

Historians might have various opinions about the negotiations of the congress of 1814 and whether their results were indeed a fair and stable solution to the peoples of Europe at that time. However, a certain prevailing ambience and spirit of Vienna always have been contributing to seek peace-fostering political solutions.

More recently important conferences and meetings of regional and European scope have also taken place at the Hofburg. Not least of all, the first Seminar on Military Doctrine was held here in 1990 and the course was set for arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in what is now the OSCE.

With this historical background to the conference venue and the openness and transparency prevailing here in the Hofburg, convenient conditions have been created for a successful fifth Seminar on Military Doctrine.

As it is the basic goal of the Seminar on Military Doctrine being to promote transparency, openness and predictability between the OSCE participating States, it seems to be the right time, four years after the last Seminar on Military Doctrine, to address new aspects of military doctrines.

Military doctrines derive from a national assessment and are built on national threat analysis, capabilities and possibilities as well as the innovative of technological developments. In this process, military forces are to cover a possible deployment spectrum consisting of national defence, international involvement and disaster assistance. National solutions for dealing with the

entire range of tasks are frequently not enough. In many cases, solutions are sought in co-operation with other forces.

Sharing of information about our national doctrines is a prerequisite and an important baseline for multinational co-operation under the umbrella of an international security framework. In any given multinational operation doctrinal awareness is essential for the integration of the various participants and the interoperability among national military forces.

Achievements could be pursued through co-operation with regard to defence and security policy. A long-term vision as aimed at in the European Security and Defence Policy can be very helpful when co-ordinating and distributing tasks. To deal with future challenges, the OSCE could also create a longer-term planning framework and guidelines for the transformation of forces. This year's Seminar on Military Doctrine could serve as a first contribution to that end.

Currently the OSCE is in a kind of transformation process itself. In the 1990-ies the OSCE developed competencies in conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. Today the key focus of international security has shifted from regionally limited to transnational threats and risks. Developing new strategies and working tools the OSCE should rely on sharing of experience and exchange of ideas among participation state. This seminar, among other methods, could serve as a good forum for that.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the military representative of the host country, I finally would like to thank all those who have helped in the organization of this Seminar on Military Doctrine. Let me again wish all those present a successful seminar and a lively and frank exchange of views.