

**Statement by Mr. Andrus Ansip, the Prime Minister of Estonia  
at OSCE Summit in Astana**

December 2, 2010

Madame president, Chairperson-in-Office, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Kazakh chairmanship for vigorously guiding us through this year and wish our Lithuanian friends much strength and success for their incoming presidency.

After being actively engaged in the Corfu process, the time is ripe for moving forward. This will clearly reflect the actual political will of all participating States to reaffirm security, trust and confidence in the OSCE area.

When heading towards the future, we should focus on the tasks where the OSCE has most added value. The OSCE has been, is, and should remain at the forefront of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as democracy-building. Estonia appreciates the expertise and the contribution of the Secretariat and OSCE institutions and we stress the consistent need to enhance them.

I would like to highlight the role of free media and journalists in enhancing the transparency of our societies - something we in Estonia were missing during decades under a totalitarian regime. Estonia is deeply concerned about the brutal attacks and harassment targeting journalists that are still reported almost daily. This cannot go on unpunished. Moreover, the free flow of information has to be ensured regardless of what means are used for conveying the message, be it the electronic or traditional media.

Time and time again we speak about the need to produce tangible and lasting results in resolving the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area -- our most serious security challenge. We should stay focused on preparing conditions for the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and the Nagorno-Karabakh. People, who are suffering in these conflicts, need our action now -- not tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow.

Re-emphasising the importance of respecting independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, we stress the importance to implement fully

the 2008 August and September agreements. At the same time, wider access to the conflict zone must be ensured along with the safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Moreover, the international community should reiterate its demand to reinstate a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia.

Urgent attention is also needed in order to efficiently respond to new threats and challenges stemming from outside the OSCE area. Renewed effort is needed to assist Afghanistan -- for example, through enhancing the OSCE's contribution to its border management capability.

Thanks to its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE is well-placed to confront the threat to cyber security. Estonia is making sustained efforts to raise awareness of this real and ever-growing risk. Several OSCE workshops on cyber security have already taken place. Now it is important to move towards preparing an OSCE strategic document on this most complex issue.

Today, we, the heads of state and government, have a vision of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. To make this vision a reality, we all have to contribute by reaffirmed commitment to our core principles and shared values – the cornerstone of our organisation now and in the years to come. After all, the more firmly our principles stand, the stronger the basis is for building a future full of trust and confidence.

Thank you