

**OSCE Summit of Heads of State or Government
Astana, 1-2 December 2010**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Georgi Parvanov
President of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to express my gratitude to the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to our hosts and to the team of the Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship for the excellent organization and hospitality here in Astana, Kazakhstan's young capital uniting traditions and future.

Bulgaria associates itself with the statement made by Belgium on behalf of the EU. In addition, I would like to touch upon a number of issues of special relevance to my country.

A decade has passed since the last OSCE Summit. A decade during which the world has continued to change and build interconnections enhancing the feeling of unity among individuals, states and organizations. A decade during which global information networks and technologies have rendered the geographical, political and cultural borders even more relative, at the same time making security of our societies a wider function of cooperation and interaction.

How has the OSCE been affected by the dynamics of this period? On the one hand, the validity of the principles, commitments and common objectives of the Organization has been reconfirmed. It has made possible to overcome the Post-Cold War confrontation, creating a common space of peace and democracy from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Today, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, we must restate both our adherence to these principles and commitments, and our responsibility for their implementation.

On the other hand, the decade following the Istanbul Summit has witnessed the emergence of a number of new threats and challenges to security alongside the existing ones. At the same time, a deficit of confidence resulting from deviations to meet certain commitments as well as from differences in approaches to security has seriously affected the OSCE capacity to address such threats. In this respect, the resumption of the dialogue on all aspects of security within the Corfu Process is an important step to restoring trust among participating States and enhancing the role of the Organization in the European security architecture.

The impetus of this process should be used to achieve the ambitious objective of adapting to the realities of the 21st century with a view to turning the OSCE from a geographically defined regional organization into a security community. A community without dividing lines and areas with different levels of security which is based upon shared principles and commitments, non-use or threat to use force.

It is necessary to strengthen the OSCE potential to respond at every stage of the conflict cycle - from early warning and prevention to post-conflict rehabilitation. My hope is that here, in Astana, we will succeed in setting realistic goals for further strengthening the OSCE capacity in this field.

Security and stability throughout the OSCE area are directly linked to the resolution of the so called “protracted conflicts”. I am confident that our meeting today will give an impetus in that direction, including the implementation of existing agreements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Advancing of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security, enhancing implementation of commitments in all three security dimensions and restoring trust are key prerequisites for the Organization’s significant contribution to security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

On November 19th we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe which, together with the Vienna Document of 1999, has created an unprecedented environment of confidence and transparency resulting in a significant reduction of conventional arms from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural. I am confident that together we will find the necessary political will to advance the existing conventional arms control regime in Europe turning it into a modern tool to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Our commitments in the area of Human Dimension including the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, freedom of the media, building democratic institutions and promoting tolerance are among the major OSCE achievements. Their reaffirmation and full implementation represent a fundamental condition for a lasting peace, stability and prosperity in our societies.

Transnational threats and challenges to security including those stemming from Afghanistan require a common response more than ever before. Addressing successfully this priority task is of key importance to strengthening security and stability throughout the OSCE area. Therefore, Bulgaria firmly supports plans to continue the engagement of the Organization with Afghanistan in close cooperation with other international organizations.

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In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the role and contribution of the Kazakhstan’s OSCE Chairmanship and the participating States in the overall preparation of this Summit. I expect the adoption of a final document that will set a fine example of compromise for the sake of cooperation. A document that will unambiguously reaffirm the OSCE values and principles thus encouraging a better and more comprehensive implementation of our commitments in all three dimensions. I am confident that the deliverables of this Summit will match the political symbolism and the importance of the OSCE anniversaries that we celebrate here, in Astana.

Thank you for your attention!