



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

MC.DEL/91/06  
7 December 2006

ENGLISH only

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### **Conference Services**

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached address of by H.E. Zoran Petrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Brussels on 4 December 2006 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.

**Republic of Macedonia**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**ADDRESS**

**By**

**H.E. ZORAN PETROV**

**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia**

**at the**

**14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**BRUSSELS, 4-5 December 2006**

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia associates itself with the Statement made by Finland on behalf of the EU.

Mr. Chairman, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on the results achieved during your Chairmanship. I believe that my remarks on the enthusiasm you have demonstrated and the dynamics in strengthening the relevance and the effectiveness of our organization as a Chairman-in-Office are shared by all participants in this Ministerial Council.

Let me also wish a warm welcome to our newest Participating States Montenegro.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All of us present here believe in the relevance of this organization. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to bring our views closer and identify short and long term measures to enhance the efficiency and coherence of our actions.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to working closely with other Participating States and to joining efforts in bettering the focus of the OSCE work in the areas where it has comparative advantages. Macedonia will remain among the advocates of improving the transparency and the effectiveness of the decision making process based on sovereign equality and on the rule of consensus. Here, of course, I would not like to exclude pursuance of other significant objectives of the process of strengthening the effectiveness, such as the need to ensure long term coherence of the priorities and action plans of the OSCE and fostering the sense of ownership and inclusiveness of all Participating States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Its cooperative and multidimensional approach to security makes the OSCE one of the pillars of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture and one of key forums for political and security dialogue.

Flexibility and promptness of reaction to emerging challenges and crises of various types remain the principal advantage of the

OSCE. We must not undermine this valuable asset. On the contrary, we must work on enhancing the flexibility of our response.

Significant progress has been made in terms of better balancing the Organization's three dimensions. The process should continue, with adequate emphasis on the human dimension. Respect for human rights remains the basic prerequisite for stability and economic development. The cross-dimensional nature of our activities, accompanied with the comprehensive approach to security, is the asset to be cherished.

The OSCE and its institutions continue to be among the key instruments of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In this context, field missions have a vital role and therefore we need to continue working on advancing their performances. The Republic of Macedonia has benefited from the OSCE presence, which supported our national efforts in times of the crisis but also our reform agenda. The success of the Mission is owed to close partnership with the Macedonian authorities. As for its future, we believe that its downsizing should continue as foreseen and that its future activities should focus on supporting the programs in the sphere of the rule of law.

Coming back to the OSCE institutions, let me underscore the contribution of ODIHR to electoral matters and its assistance in furthering the electoral processes, as one of the benchmark of this organization. The ODIHR assisted the drafting of the new election legislation in the Republic of Macedonia and led the observation mission for the 5 July parliamentary elections. The Macedonian government greatly appreciates its contribution to this process.

Mr. Chairman,

The decisions to be adopted at the year's Council meeting are yet another demonstration of our commitment to dealing with the continuing challenges of today's world. Fighting organized crime, terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings are among those. We support the Spanish Chairmanship in following up on what we have achieved in the sphere of the fight against terrorism, building upon the international efforts against this phenomenon. The Decision and the Action Plan on the fight against terrorism which were adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council as well as the Charter on the

prevention and fight against terrorism adopted at the Porto Ministerial Council in 2002 and the relevant decision we have adopted as a follow-up, present an excellent framework for our concerted action.

The fight against the present threats that I have just mentioned, namely, the organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in human beings and drugs trafficking are closely linked to the issue of secure borders. We are proud that the OSCE has been inspired in developing the Border Security and Management Concept by Macedonia, in particular by the Ohrid Border Process three years ago. The involvement of the OSCE in the facilitation of the cross border cooperation has been reviewed at the conference “Lessons Learned in Promoting Cross Border Co-operation in the OSCE Area” organized in October 2006. We are aware that there are some discussions to extend the Ohrid Border Process in South Eastern Europe as a useful tool for the application of the principle of “open and secure borders”.

Many of our decisions will be implemented in close cooperation with our partner organizations, the UN, EU, NATO, the Council of Europe and others. Much has been done to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts, but we need to continue working on improving the complementarity of actions and capitalizing on strengths of each of them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly touch upon the developments in the Republic of Macedonia. The vision of the new Government, formed following the 5 July elections, is to design and pursue active and efficient policies to reach the highest standards of democracy, economic progress and social justice. We expect the accomplishments to be made nationally to serve our strategic goals, EU and NATO integration. The new Government will continue to work on the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, in particular the equitable representation and decentralization. Functional multi-ethnic society is our primary goal. To that end, we will continue to foster political dialogue on all outstanding issues. Furthermore, our focus will be on promotion of the rule of law, including the reform of the judiciary. We have developed a program, underpinned by a strong political will, to fight organized crime and corruption. The reforms in the economy are

aimed at increased competitiveness of domestic companies, creation of sound business environment for foreign investments, related institutional capacity building etc. We have an ambitious agenda before us and are determined to carry it through and achieve tangible results promptly.

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our two-day debate has reaffirmed our commitment to the fundamental values and principals of the OSCE. It has also demonstrated the differences of positions established or reaffirmed in our political dialogue. However, I believe that our vision of a united Europe, in which the shared values of democracy, rule of law and human rights will prevail, provide a strong motivation for finding a common language and to respond to the present and to the challenges to come.

Let me conclude by wishing every success to our future Chairman, friendly Spain, and assure them of the support in carrying out the complex tasks ahead of us.

Thank you for your attention.