



ADDRESS

**by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dr Dimitrij Rupel
at the 3rd Council of Europe Summit
Warsaw, 17 May 2005**

Messieurs les Présidents,
Messieurs les Premiers Ministres,
Chers collègues,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de pouvoir participer à ce sommet et de m'adresser à vous en tant que Président en exercice de l'OSCE, l'un des partenaires les plus étroits du Conseil de l'Europe.

Aujourd'hui, nous nous trouvons devant un des moments pivots de l'histoire européenne. Les élargissements de l'OTAN et de l'UE l'année dernière représentent un défi supplémentaire pour nos organisations qui devront redéfinir leurs rôles dans ce moment de grands changements de la situation politique en Europe.

L'année 2005 est aussi une année d'anniversaires, ce qui nous offre l'occasion de réfléchir sur le passé avant de nous lancer vers nos objectifs futurs.

L'année des anniversaires

La semaine dernière, nous avons célébré les soixante ans de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale en Europe. Cela a été l'occasion de nous souvenir de tous ceux qui ont perdu la vie au cours de la plus grande tragédie du 20^e siècle, et d'honorer tous ceux qui se sont battus pour la victoire de la liberté et de l'humanité, contre la dictature, l'oppression et l'agression.

La Guerre froide a semé une profonde division dans le monde, le séparant en deux blocs opposés. Il y a trente ans, 35 chefs d'État et de gouvernement ont signé l'Acte final de Helsinki, créant la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe. Le processus de Helsinki a facilité énormément la détente entre l'Est et l'Ouest, et contribué à dépasser les scissions en Europe.

Après le chute du mur de Berlin et les transformations politiques en Europe centrale et orientale, les chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'OSCE ont signé la *Charte de Paris pour une nouvelle Europe*, dans laquelle ils se sont engagés à promouvoir et aider à construire des institutions démocratiques dans toute la région couverte par l'Organisation sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe.

Common Values in a Changing Europe

The Council of Europe has developed a sophisticated range of treaties, conventions and instruments to strengthen the democratic foundations of the new Europe. For its part, the OSCE is continuing its endeavours to strengthen democratic institutions and promote viable civil society in the transition countries. The OSCE remains committed to preventing and resolving ethnic conflicts in our region and to address new threats to the European security, such as terrorism, organized crime and illegal trafficking.

I believe that it is no coincidence that the United Nations, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe are all now discussing reform. Organizations created in the aftermath of the Second World War or in the period of mistrust between Cold War opponents now find themselves in completely different circumstances and must change to retain their relevance.

The OSCE is undergoing a process of transformation to make it more efficient and transparent, so that it will be of even greater benefit to the people of its Participating States. Slovenia has chosen "Reform, Revitalize and Rebalance" as its motto for this year's OSCE Chairmanship. Reform is the centrepiece of the Slovenian Chairmanship as was reflected in my appointments to the Panel of Eminent Persons, which will present its report next month.

The OSCE's enhanced co-operation with the Council of Europe is a good example of how the reform of our respective organizations should be accompanied by stronger ties between us in the pursuit of our common goals.

Our partnership must be anchored in a strong set of common values. While the architecture of Europe may change, the foundations stay the same. Democratic values and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms remain at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

Enhancing Synergy between the Two Organizations

In the *Istanbul Charter for European Security*, the OSCE undertook to strengthen relations with organizations that promote comprehensive security in the OSCE region. The Council of Europe and OSCE not only share similar objectives but also similar memberships- with a couple of important exceptions from Asia and North America.

For this reason, it is necessary that the OSCE and the Council of Europe pool the available resources and enhance synergy between the two organizations. I believe that both organizations – and the States that are part of them – should, as a rule, look at existing resources before planning new initiatives. Europe has a high concentration of expertise in human rights and the rule of law that should be properly channelled and used effectively.

Some political actors would like to introduce in the relations between the OSCE and the Council of Europe not competition but substitution and forum shopping. This would be a harmful direction of action to take.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE must continue to co-exist and co-operate. They reinforce each other the same way as other European organizations (EU and NATO) do.

I applaud my Norwegian and Bulgarian colleagues, who started this process last year, and Poland with whom we have worked closely this year to see the project through. Today, the Polish Foreign Minister Adam Daniel Rotfeld and myself signed a joint statement that highlights the Declaration on Co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Declaration is a manifestation of the determination to see closer cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

On election monitoring, I believe that the sound foundation of cooperation between the OSCE/ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe should continue. The fundamental principles on democratic elections bind our organizations together in the ultimate pursuit of genuine democratic governance. Our joint monitoring efforts enhance confidence, transparency and accountability of an election process. The cooperation between the OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission in the review of election legislation helps emerging democracies to bring their legislation more closely in line with democratic standards.

The two organizations must ensure that our efforts in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination complement existing activities. We can also draw on each other's expertise in the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, Roma and Sinti, combating trafficking in human beings and in the fight against terrorism.

Reaching the Summit

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we reflect on momentous past events that have shaped modern history, we should appreciate how far we have come in building a world united on the basis of common democratic values.

While we may have our differences, these are the differences that we debate rather than fight over. We have forums where we can seek to resolve them, a clear set of common standards, and instruments to assist each other in implementing our commitments.

I welcome this Summit as a way of assessing, reaffirming and strengthening the cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Thank you.