



MAGYAR KÖZTÁRSASÁG KÜLÜGYMINISZTERIUMA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

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**STATEMENT BY H. E. MR. FERENC SOMOGYI
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING
(Sofia, 6 December 2004)**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me join others who have expressed their gratitude to the Government of Bulgaria for the kind hospitality and perfect organizational arrangements. A word of appreciation goes towards the Bulgarian Chairmanship, under the able direction of my good friend, Solomon Passy.

This year's tragic events, within and outside the OSCE area have proven once again that we cannot relent in our common effort to combat terrorism. Enhanced cooperation and a comprehensive approach — tackling also the root causes of terrorism — are the only effective instruments to eradicate this scourge and ensure that democratic values, standards and development prevail in all participating States. As an integral part of the fight against terrorism the OSCE has made considerable progress by addressing issues such as border management, cutting funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities as well as anti-trafficking action.

Hungary continues to attach great importance to the politico-military dimension of the OSCE. We remain committed to the CFE Treaty and wish to see the entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation as soon as possible. However this can only be done in the context of resolving the outstanding Istanbul commitments. We note with regret the lack of progress in this respect. The situation in Moldova gives cause to particular concern and we are convinced that the signing of the Stability and Security Declaration on Moldova would bring us closer to a solution benefiting all parties involved.

After several years of successful implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies Hungary as co-depositary looks forward to the first review conference, next year. We also note with satisfaction that the list of those who have joined the Treaty is steadily growing.

We regard the implementation and constant review of the state of compliance with human dimension commitments as an essential task of the OSCE. Democratization, rule of law, human rights, the rights of minorities, fight against xenophobia and racial discrimination are the main issues we have to tackle together. We welcome important decisions to be taken by this Council to strengthen the fight against intolerance. We trust that the special envoys will assist the participating States in creating an atmosphere of general respect.

Hungary continues to support the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We value in his mission a full set of early warning and preventive, cooperative measures. We also recognise the bold efforts of the Representative on the Freedom of the Media to promote full compliance with OSCE principles in respect of freedom of expression and the media. We pay due attention and give all assistance to the work of the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, with the expansion of the European Union and NATO, we have witnessed fundamental changes in the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area. In light of these changes we have to consider the necessary reforms to the OSCE's activities and institutions as well. Enhanced co-

operation amongst the Euro-Atlantic organizations could and have to be mutually beneficial in their respective activities.

OSCE maintains its relevance and key role in providing stability, advocating human rights and building confidence amongst participating States both East and West of Vienna. We are convinced that reforms aiming at striking the right balance among the three dimensions can be implemented through mobilizing additional resources and efforts to strengthen the economic and environmental dimension and at the same time preserving our achievements and fostering co-operation in the politico-military and human dimensions. The need to adapt OSCE to new challenges and strengthen its role in the community of international organizations has been with us since Paris. We consider the decision to review the functioning of the organization with the help of independent experts a forward-looking one.

It is our conviction that Euro-Atlantic integration is the true token of democratic stability for the countries of the Western Balkans. The EU-accession of Bulgaria and Romania, as well as Croatia's candidacy to the Union will certainly contribute to the process of stabilization in the region.

With the involvement of the OSCE, considerable progress has been achieved in building democratic institutions in the Western Balkans. However the March events in Kosovo have proven that stability is still fragile and the self-sustaining democratic development is yet to be strengthened. The presence and close co-operation of the OSCE with other Euro-Atlantic organizations remains crucial, therefore we believe that any redistribution of attention or resources among the regions like the Western Balkans, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, should be preceded by proper need assessment and thorough examination. Activities of the OSCE related to conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation should be adjusted according to the relevance of the problems, proper geographic balance.

Hungary has followed the recent events in Ukraine with special attention. We have learnt with satisfaction that the people of Ukraine stood up for their right to have a free and democratic election. In that context, we welcome the decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Court. We hope that the renewed second round of the elections along with the round table negotiations will bring a lasting political settlement. The Ukrainian legislation has an important role to play in this process by establishing the necessary democratic legal framework. The active participation of ODIHR observers in the new round of elections is an essential contribution to a genuinely democratic and free election process.

2005 is a year of OSCE anniversaries: the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris and 10th anniversary of the OSCE. These occasions provide us with an opportunity to assess the changes occurred during the past years, and to contemplate the reforms in the organization's activities in order to adapt the OSCE to the changed environment.

In conclusion let me express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Jan Kubis, outgoing Secretary General for the valuable contribution to and skillful management of OSCE activities he has made in his term of office. While offering our co-operation we extend our good wishes to the incoming Slovenian chairmanship and wish them every success in this process.

Thank you.