



STÄNDIGE VERTRETUNG DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN
BEI DER ORGANISATION FÜR SICHERHEIT UND ZUSAMMENARBEIT IN EUROPA (OSZE)

Courtesy translation

Liechtenstein Delegation

The thirteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum, Prague 23 – 27 May 2005

Statement to Agenda Point: Review of the Implementation of OSCE
commitments in the economic and environmental dimension focusing on
“Integration, Trade and Transport”

Mr. Chairman,

The Slovenian Chairmanship and the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities were able to attract high ranking and interesting keynote speakers for this year's OSCE Economic Forum. My delegation appreciates it very much that with the presence of Mr. Vladimir Spidla, a European Commissioner has enriched the debate of the Economic Forum with a very interesting contribution.

The UNECE has presented an extensive report on the topic of “Integration, Trade and Transport” to the Economic Forum which serves as a good base for our work. We like to express our thanks to the UNECE. The Liechtenstein Delegation recognizes that this form of cooperation between international organizations is very valuable. It is also very sensible if synergies are achieved. Liechtenstein has, on its part, filled out the questionnaire on the review of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension.

Mr. Chairman,

At the very beginning of your document, the UNECE sets the framework and the basis for the report. Director Abdur Chowdhury from UNECE has specifically referred to these principles in his introductory speech. And I quote from the text on page 4: “The Charter of European Security notes that all OSCE commitments, without exception, apply equally to each participating State. Their implementation in good faith is essential for relations between States, between governments and their people.... Participating States are ... responsible to each other for their implementation of the OSCE commitments. Commitments are regarded as common achievements and therefore are considered to be matters of immediate and legislative concern to all participating States.”

The Liechtenstein Delegation sees the implementation of the OSCE commitments, in fact in all three dimensions, as a basis for fruitful work in the OSCE.

The basis for the cooperation between OSCE states in the economic dimension was established by the Bonn Document of 1990. The document contains fundamental, important and therefore timeless principles of the economic cooperation such as the conduct of free, periodic and genuine elections, the rule of law and equal protection under the law for all, based on respect for human rights and effective, accessible and just legal systems or the full recognition and protection of all types of property including private property.

In this context, the Liechtenstein delegation regrets to draw the attention of the Economic Forum in its implementation debate once again to the fact that the Czech Republic does not fully satisfy the OSCE commitments of the Bonn Document and that therefore the legal questions on property rights between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic remain unresolved. A few words as background information: In 1945 and in the following years, property of Liechtenstein citizens were confiscated by the then existing Czechoslovakia. The expropriation of property belonging to Liechtenstein citizens was due to a policy of non-recognition of Liechtenstein. This had the effect that assets of Liechtenstein citizens were confiscated with the argument that they belonged to the German people. Until today, these assets have neither been restituted nor was any compensation paid as it would be in line with the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation. In particular, these confiscations present a violation of the laws in force at the time and the international law of today.

As in years before, Liechtenstein continues to pursue its efforts to resolve these open questions.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Economic Forum to this year's Liechtenstein country report on questions of demographic trends, migration and integration which will be circulated tomorrow.

This intervention is made available in German and English.

I thank you for your attention.