



SUM.DEL/72/10
9 December 2010

ENGLISH only

BELGIUM

**SUMMIT OF THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Speech by H.E. Yves Leterme,
Prime Minister of Belgium**

Astana, 1 December 2010

Mister President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank the Kazakh Presidency of the OSCE for its generous hospitality, efforts and determination, all of which made it possible to hold this Summit today in Astana, more than ten years after the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul in 1999.

Belgium fully stands behind the European Union's four major ambitions for the future of the OSCE :

- the strengthening of our capacities of prevention and management of conflicts and crises and the resolution of unresolved conflicts ;
- the modernisation of arms control ;
- the full implementation of all our commitments in the three dimensions, including the human dimension ;
- an increased contribution to the fight against transnational threats.

We know that reaching these objectives is a long-term exercise, but the stakes are worth it. As a founding member of the European Union, Belgium can bear witness to the key role the European Community has played in achieving peace, justice and prosperity. The spirit of unity in diversity, a major theme of the European Union, finds fertile ground in the OSCE.

The OSCE has unique advantages which deserve to be better used in the future in order to cope with instabilities that still exist in areas such as the

South Caucasus and certain parts of central Asia, and to cope with the new threats and challenges which affect us all, and which we have to address in a spirit of close cooperation.

It is first and foremost a geographically comprehensive political forum bringing together, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, all states concerned about security within their space. In that respect, it contributes genuine added value. Belgium is a firm defender of the strength and benefits of multilateralism in terms of promoting peace and security. The OSCE has inadequately untapped potential in this regard. That could change, given the greater political determination that can be expressed at the Summit. We need to use the OSCE at the maximum of its capacities in order to build bridges between ourselves.

Moreover, since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 by its predecessor, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE has continued to comprehensively manage the security and stability of the European-Atlantic space. Now more than ever, we all know that security is not created by military means alone. There is no peace without development and no development without peace. Nor is there long-term peace without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Belgium will also dedicate particular attention to undertake, within and outside our organization, effective and concrete actions. This is the case in relation to the fight against illicit trade of small arms and light weapons :

why prevent and heal conflicts, if we don't strongly tackle the trade of such arms, which kill every day. It is in the same spirit that we are attached to the independence of our human rights institutions : why examine human rights situations in a country, if this analysis is not made with full objectivity.

This ambition of enhanced realism and credibility should go hand in hand with our willingness to enhance the outreach and the legitimacy of the organization. I therefore wish to plead resolutely for enhanced cooperation with the parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and with the national parliaments which contribute to a good democratic governance.

Mister President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased with the direction taken by the draft declaration as negotiated so far and we hope our Summit will adopt such declaration. It would give the OSCE what it needs to begin its process of development and modernisation in order to contribute more effectively in the future to the fight against threats from inside and outside its borders. It would also give the organisation the opportunity to participate more effectively in preventing, managing and seeking political solutions to existing conflicts and emerging crises.

The strategic vision we need to approve should give a fresh impetus to the OSCE, and the Action Plan that should accompany it contains many mandates and activities which could immediately give it a second wind. This

should enable all of our peoples and all of our citizens to enjoy enhanced security, and will mean enhanced stability for our states.

In doing so, our summit will shape a new security community within the OSCE space, where the use of force is out of place and where the Participating States spare no effort to fully respect and enforce human rights and fundamental freedoms – all of which are evidence of peace and sustainable development.

I hope that the Astana Summit marks a turning point in the work of the OSCE, and that it gives our organization renewed strength to contribute to greater security and stability for our states and greater human security for all of us.