

OSCE Conference on Globalisation
3 - 4 July 2003

ENGLISH only

**Speaking Points of the Italian Permanent Representative
for the Final Session**

- I speak in my capacity as representative of the current Presidency of the EU.
- The EU has both a stake and a responsibility in the matters that were discussed here these last two days. Contrary to what some assume, the institutional enlargement of the EU to ten new members, by expanding its borders, brings the twentyfive closer to their new neighbours. The stated aim is to develop a zone of prosperity among a “ring of friends” with whom the EU enjoys close, co-operative relations. The “wider Europe” initiative, as this process of reaching further is called, will therefore hopefully benefit OSCE as a whole, just as much as the EU will benefit from its involvement in OSCE.
- The EU and OSCE share the very same DNA: their underlying principles and fundamental mechanisms are equally directed at a soft but comprehensive approach to security. In the EU, it has benefitted countries both big and small, with initially different degrees of economic and social development. The EU has thus demonstrated that integration develops the instruments with which to cope with competition, and is now therefore better equipped to deal with the challenges of globalisation.
- One of the catch-words most utilised these two last days has been good governance, a principle that has an overarching significance both nationally and with respect to the international system, in its many interconnections. The comparative advantage, the *niche* of OSCE, is that it is an eminently political organisation, based on inclusiveness, consensus-building and basically directed at institution-building (a synonym for good governance, across the three dimensions), a task to be undertaken together in transitional times that affect us all, albeit differently.

- The purpose of the economic strategy that we have been tasked by the Porto Ministerial to develop, and that this conference will have very usefully contributed to, is “to set out the main objectives, principles and methods of co-operation [...] based on an assessment of the current situation and existing economic and environmental threats to security and stability in the OSCE region”. Providing recommendations, proposals for additional commitments and developing criteria and guidance, taking account of the OSCE comparative strengths and role as a catalyst for action by other organisations and institutions, will obviously flow from that.
- Which means, essentially, for the OSCE, to engage in a problem-mapping exercise in the economic and environmental dimension as well, identifying specific issues that may constitute bottlenecks for international and sub-regional co-operation and integration. The end result should be to promote capacity-building, and ultimately self-help, in a legal, structural and social environment that is conducive to foreign direct investment and sustainable development. In that respect, the OSCE in Vienna and its Institutions and Field Operations constitute at the same time the sensors and the magnets for broader international solidarity and co-operation.
- This conference, I feel, has very much contributed to the exchange of opinions, ideas and expectations that will continue to spur us in that direction.