

Statement by Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Astana, 1 December 2010

Mr President,
Mr Chairman-in-Office,
Your Excellencies,
Esteemed colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh Chairman-in-Office for their warm hospitality.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to make three points.

First, I support our shared vision of a security community that includes all OSCE states, where the use of force is unthinkable and common interests prevail.

Such a security community must be based on respect for all commitments, especially in the human dimension. OSCE Summits have promised, time and again, to uphold commitments in the field of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. Now is the time for action.

Building a security community is possible only if we stick to our promise to respect the human dimension. In particular, I urge all those present to ensure freedom of the media and freedom of assembly and organisation. I would like to highlight the importance of Non-Governmental Organisations for achieving these goals and for the OSCE in general. NGOs are crucial to the work of this organisation.

Second, to turn the vision of a security community into reality, we need a genuine security dialogue. We have to build trust

and confidence. So I am very encouraged by the results of the NATO-Russia Council, where we agreed to strengthen cooperation on missile defence and on Afghanistan.

We should follow this example in the OSCE. Our organisation provides a comprehensive framework for discussing common problems and how to address them. We should focus on arms control and combating transnational threats – topics that are important to our peoples. Regarding the CFE Treaty, we are moving in the right direction. It is of paramount importance to break the deadlock.

Third and finally, we need to match our words with actions. We should take genuine responsibility for our common security. We need a hands-on approach and should step up our efforts to solve the ongoing problems in Europe, whether they are in Georgia, in Moldova or in Nagorno Karabakh. We should agree on an ambitious action plan, covering all three dimensions of the OSCE. We need to move from early warning to early action. I see the tragic events in Kyrgyzstan as a warning that fully-fledged conflicts can still happen.

I would also like to express my support to the remarks made by Mr Van Rompuy on behalf of the EU.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to conclude by welcoming Lithuania as the holder of the Chairmanship in 2011. I wish you success in working towards 1) respect for human rights, 2) trust and confidence in a shared security community and 3) an effective, hands-on approach to addressing security challenges.

Thank you.