

**STATEMENT BY H.E. SVEN ALKALAJ,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
ATHENS, 1 - 2 December 2009**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please, allow me, at the outset, to express my gratitude to our Greek host for an excellent organization of this important event and the Prime minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs George Papandreou particularly, as well as to the Chair of Permanent Council Mara Marinaki for the excellent work which she performed in Vienna leading informal "Corfu Process" meetings.

Bosnia and Herzegovina endorses commitments of the OSCE, as the most inclusive and comprehensive security organization from Vancouver to Vladivostok, providing an unique platform for political dialogue on European security matters. The Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security and other CSCE/OSCE decisions and documents remain our common achievement and the foundation of our work. The main objective of this dialogue should be to re-establish trust and confidence between the participating States, leading to a more secure Europe. The guiding compass of the Organization through a dramatic period of European history has never changed - the foundations of the Organizations' shared values and common commitments.

Indivisibility of European and Euro-Atlantic security area and recent challenges we face in our common reality - fighting terrorism, energetic security, access to natural resources, just to mention some of them – reaffirm the most important need to keep an arena for dialogue, and OSCE reasonably can be considered as the key venue.

Having in mind that the matter at hand bares relevance and affects security and stability within the universal frame, and given Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to play constructive role, we highly esteem OSCE as a forum, where we can add our voice in processes dealing with security issues of common importance.

Advancing our contribution in achieving effective and global security, Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the UN Security Council in 2010 will be marked by our simultaneous action in many of different formats, led by strong vision and political will, fully corresponding to the vision and goals of the OSCE.

The Corfu Process, launched by the Greek Chairmanship, has already revitalized the Dialog on European Security reviewing the common foundations of their security, the commitments they

have undertaken and the mechanisms they have developed. Bosnia and Herzegovina, as all other participating States, is ready to continue dialogue to be guided by three basis elements:

1. Adherence to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, where we need to renew collective efforts to use a range of instruments to make progress toward settling the protracted conflicts, early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation.

2. Reconfirmation of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments in all three OSCE dimensions including the need for full implementation of our commitments. We have to continue discussions in the field of arms control regimes, to determine new strategies to tackle transnational threats such as terrorism, human trafficking, drugs, cyber crime, environmental challenges and energy insecurity, to actively support to the rule of law with stronger mechanisms to improve human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media and continue to support the process of democratic transition.

3. Determination to strengthen partnership of all participating with other regional and international organizations such as NATO, COE, the UN Institutions, as well as with the NGOs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina keeps European and Euro-Atlantic integrations on highest position among priorities on our agenda. Our ongoing reform efforts, undertaken with the aim of the Country's full integration into Euro-Atlantic politico-security structures, will significantly contribute to increased security at national, regional and global level.

Bosnia and Herzegovina implements Core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence and security building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, as well as Vienna Document 1999, and is strongly committed to do so in future. We are committed to create together with other participating States conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

Wide scope of regional possibilities in the area of South-East Europe we successfully turned into regional opportunities, after having established strategic economic exchange linking people and ideas, tangible co-operative security in the region as a contribution and part of European security was reached and has been maintained.

It is, however, still not easy to learn the reason why EU enlargement process as a part of European security is repeatedly considered as a “not in demand” issue? In return, Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoys undeserved - and enormous in terms of endemic humiliation - visa regime, delivered in hands of diligent and innovative consular corps in Sarajevo.

I would like to stress that the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the largest international civilian organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been a most valuable partner in a number of key areas – education, security sector reform, capacity-building, democracy, to name just a few. Its ability to reach full understanding in closest communication with local authorities on all levels, and bring various communities to more mutual trust and higher degree of

tolerance, significantly contributed in gaining common stability. The continued success of the Mission will depend to the largest extent on the approval of the same budget level for the coming year 2010 to enable the Mission to continue implementing existing projects in my Country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches great importance to further strengthening of security and stability in the World and remains committed to uphold the international principles and values which apply to that.

In this regard, and on the basis of accomplishments in the framework of cooperation with NATO, Bosnia and Herzegovina has presented its application for NATO Membership Action Plan status. Allow me to assure you that just like being determined to maintain its active and constructive role in the OSCE, to being an active member of the UN Security Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina is equally dedicated to remain a reliable partner of the NATO. I sincerely hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue with its speedy progress towards full-fledged membership of the Alliance, unless, of course, there is yet another new condition laid for it on that path.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate gratitude to the Greek Chairmanship approaching an end of its remarkable tenure, and to wish all the best to our next Kazakh Chair-in-Office.

Thank you for your attention.