

## **OSCE Vienna Roundtable, 12-13 December 2010**

Session on New threats to security

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The OSCE has missed a great opportunity in Astana to adopt a substantial Framework for Action. This is all the more deplorable as at least 90 per cent of the text, including the full section on transnational threats and challenges, had already been agreed to before the whole Framework failed because of disputes over Georgia. Now it is vital, as paragraph 12 of the Astana Commemorative Declaration requests, that the incoming Chairmanship develop a concrete action plan taking into account ideas and proposals made in the Corfu Process and in the preparation for Astana. This is all the more urgent, as the OSCE is currently confronted with a number of transnational threats and challenges, particularly in Central Asia. Central Asia could become for the OSCE, what South-Eastern Europe was for the Organization in the 1990s: The centrepiece of its activities. In concrete terms, this would involve the following tasks:

- Making the 2003 Maastricht Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century more operational
- Consolidating the existing counter-terrorism mandates
- Establishing a strategic framework for police-related activities
- Implementing the 2005 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept and
- Strengthening the coordination role of the Secretariat for all these activities

With a particular view to 2014, when the allied military forces will start to withdraw from Afghanistan, the OSCE should also enhance its assistance to this partner State through a number of measures implemented in the OSCE area:

- Training of Afghan anti-drug, other police, border guards and customs officials
- Developing cooperation with Afghanistan in areas such as election support, good governance, rule of law, human rights and economic development
- Facilitating the participation of Afghan representatives in OSCE activities
- Improving coordination with the UN and other relevant international organizations

All these efforts are largely undisputed among the participating States and particularly those in Central Asia. Thus, there should be no insurmountable political obstacles. Moreover, by turning to action and showing its added value, the OSCE could in a way compensate for its failure to adopt the Framework of Action in Astana.