



MC.DEL/9/08
4 December 2008

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

REGIERUNG DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

OSZE 16. Ministerrat

**4. - 5. Dezember 2008
Helsinki**

Delegation des Fürstentums Liechtenstein

Rede

**I.E. Rita Kieber-Beck
Aussenministerin**

4. Dezember 2008

ENGLISH VERSION

courtesy translation

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Mr Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since well over three decades, Finland and the Finnish diplomacy have considerably contributed to peace on our continent. Not only do I refer to the so called Helsinki Process that started in Dipoli, but also to outstanding personalities such as President Ahtisaari, who has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize this year. I couldn't think of any better place than Helsinki to hold this year's Ministerial Council Meeting of the OSCE.

Mr Chairman,

35 years ago, the process of a unique dialogue on our continent began. This was possible despite major political tensions. At that time, the political will to establish a new understanding on security in Europe existed. The Final Act, signed in Helsinki 1975, the Charta of Paris and the CFE treaty are the cornerstones of a comprehensive security concept established between the transatlantic partners.

On the basis of common values we agreed upon common commitments. In many areas, we did succeed in their implementation. On the whole, Europe and its people are safer, more prosperous and freer than at the beginning of this process. And the OSCE today counts one third more Member States than at its foundation.

Nevertheless, we face new security challenges:

- This year, principles of our organisation have been violated once more. In Georgia, force was used and an armed conflict broke out.
- Conflicts remain frozen in the OSCE area.
- In the Military and the Human Dimension, we remain divided by a different interpretation and an incomplete implementation of our commitments.

All this has weakened the OSCE.

Mr Chairman,

Does the political will still exist to provide the organisation with the necessary authority to face all these challenges? Do Member States still see the 10 Principles of the CSCE as the adequate basis for peace and co-operation in Europe, despite all those backlashes? Or do we need, as some suggest, new and additional

foundations for our security? If thoroughly prepared, an OSCE Summit might give the appropriate answer to these questions.

Mr Chairman,

Liechtenstein is of the opinion that a clear and firm recommitment is needed. We are convinced that the 10 Principles of Helsinki, the comprehensive security concept and the transatlantic membership of the OSCE are still the valid and most apt basis for security on our continent. The same applies to its mechanisms and field missions. The conflict in Georgia showed that the OSCE was able to play its role in early warning. But it failed in its conflict prevention role. Now, time has come to restore the organisations credibility and to provide the OSCE with a clear mandate in order to prevent new conflicts and to overcome the crisis in Georgia.

Mr Chairman,

The world faces major economic challenges. In such an environment, the respect of human rights, the mutual respect and the accommodation of each other's interests, good neighbourly relations and the co-operation between States are put to a test. In the past few months, the Principality of Liechtenstein has pointed out on several occasions the importance of equal treatment and the rule of law, also in questions relating to economic interests. In this context, Liechtenstein also supported the German proposal to strengthen the rule of law in the OSCE area.

Mr Chairman,

Liechtenstein thanks the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship for its circumspect and farsighted leadership during this past year. We applaud Finland for an outstanding organisation of this meeting and wish Greece as our incoming Chair all the best for its challenging task in 2009.

I thank you for your attention.