

Delegation of Austria

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA AT THE  
2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

14 to 16 June 2010

**Working Session III: The role and perspectives of arms control and  
confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust in the  
evolving security environment**

Madam Moderator,

**Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs)**

The creation of a network of confidence- and security-building measures in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok is without a doubt one of the most significant achievements of the OSCE. Experience has shown, however, that we must not accept these achievements as a fait accompli but must continuously adapt them to new developments. The question of how we can strengthen existing CSBMs and apply them to new areas was the basis of our food-for-thought paper elaborated with Albania and the United Kingdom within the framework of the Corfu Process. We specified five aims:

1. Improving implementation of existing CSBMs, amongst other things by creating an implementation mechanism and offering verification training;
2. Adapting existing CSBMs through a targeted review of their core mechanisms;
3. Developing subregional CSBMs as a positive contribution to overcoming unresolved conflicts;
4. Expanding CSBMs to meet new inter-dimensional threats and challenges, for example protection of the IT and energy infrastructure, international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction with greater involvement of non-military actors in the OSCE participating States, amongst other things through the creation of a roster of expert national contact points and the exchange of information;
5. Closer co-operation with other international organizations on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security. In this context, I welcome the multiple and active participation of representatives of international organizations at this year's Annual Security Review Conference.

## **Vienna Document 1999**

Since the 1990s the Vienna Document and its confidence-building measures have formed the basis for transparency and trust. While it was timely and useful then, a need appears to have evolved in the meantime for it to be adapted and strengthened. As a result of the changed security situation, many participating States have developed further military capabilities. As these are not covered by the Vienna Document in its present form, the required transparency appears to have been lost. To take account of these new developments an adapted Vienna Document could supplement the existing measures by including an extended exchange of information and verification and in this way help to restore the loss of confidence among participating States.

## **Code of Conduct**

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is a comprehensive set of rules governing relations between participating States and the use of armed forces. It was concluded in 1994 and has not lost any of its relevance today. Recent conflicts have demonstrated, however, that participating States do not implement the provisions of the Code of Conduct in their entirety or violate them. Recent decisions by the Forum for Security Co-operation on awareness-raising and an update of the Code of Conduct questionnaire help to improve its implementation but do not form a viable platform for comprehensive discussion of violations. Austria therefore suggests that the Annual Security Review Conference also be used to discuss such violations. Even better would be a dedicated annual conference to discuss perceived irregularities by participating States or the unjustified use of military forces. This would offer the possibility for participating States to present their own points of view and in this way to gain understanding for the measures taken and would thus make a specific contribution to confidence-building. The hiving off of military tasks to civilian security companies and the implementation of international norms relevant to armed forces (e.g. United Nations Security Council resolution 1325) could also be discussed.

## **Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty)**

I should like in conclusion to make a comment on the CFE regime. The Corfu Ministerial Council decision unambiguously states that responsibility for overcoming the deadlock in the CFE regime lies with the States Parties to the Treaty. We agree with the OSCE Chairmanship in its perception paper "Role of arms control and CSBM regime in building trust in the evolving security environment" that the CFE crisis should be resolved parallel to the Corfu Process. As a State that expressed its willingness at the last OSCE summit in Istanbul to participate in an adapted CFE regime, Austria hopes that the agreement on a new START Treaty will also provide positive impetus to efforts to restore a functioning, modern, inclusive and comprehensive arms control regime in Europe. At all events, we urge all States Parties to the CFE regime to embark on specific discussions in this regard. The resolution of the CFE crisis in the near future would significantly strengthen the CSBM regime and would offer a potential starting point for an inclusive and comprehensive conventional arms control regime for all States in the OSCE area.