

German Delegation to the OSCE

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Germany fully aligns itself with the statement on energy security already delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity:

The issue of energy security has been the subject of continued attention by the OSCE over the past years. Based on the respective commitments in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy for the 2nd dimension the Ministerial Councils in Brussels 2006 and in Madrid 2007 further developed and specified aspects of energy security with a relevance for the OSCE. Against the background of previous disruptions in energy supply in the OSCE area the Athens Ministerial Council in 2009 tasked the OSCE to better shape its role as a platform for dialogue concerning energy security, setting the focus on added value compared to other institutions and fora dealing with this aspect. The recent Vilnius conference and the respective recommendations of the Secretary General based on its outcomes are concrete results of this tasking. The OSCE is now in a position to confirm its function in view of a meaningful dialogue on energy security. We are fully entitled to say that the OSCE has a role to play in the field of energy security. As a consequence and in the weeks and months ahead of us, including the Astana Summit, we must now concentrate on the modalities according to which this role is going to be conceived and interpreted.

At this very point of our joint efforts in this field, Germany would like to call upon participating States to take an approach which is at the same time constructive and realistic.

It goes without saying that the OSCE does not have the capacity to create specific expertise of its own in the complex field of energy security. Therefore, and as a first suggestion, Germany would find it useful to discuss the idea, contained in the Secretary General's above mentioned recommendations, of an Advisory Task Force of Experts who would be at the disposal of the OSCE as and when appropriate. Without pre-empting this discussion we would see such an experts' group as consisting of independent, non-governmental specialists rather than of government representatives.

As a second suggestion for our further debate Germany would see the need to make better use, especially in the Second Dimension, of the OSCE core asset, that is its capacity to organize politically meaningful debates in the Permanent Council. We could imagine that the Permanent Council would seize matters of the Second Dimension, including Energy Security, on a more regular basis and in connection with information gathered and prepared on internal and external expert level.

Thus, we believe, the dialogue on Energy Security within the OSCE would be strengthened in an efficient and at the same time feasible manner. As a result trust, confidence and transparency would be enhanced and our joint commitment to preserve stability in the energy field through dialogue, as contained already in the 2003 Masstricht Strategy, would be respected in an appropriate and concrete fashion.

To sum up our argument, we would like to emphasize that in our view the role of the OSCE concerning Energy Security comes into play not only and not first and foremost in crisis situations. We should rather strive to avoid such situations by assuring a regular, well informed and politically meaningful dialogue on this crucial aspect of our common security.