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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

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As delivered

**STATEMENT BY H. E. MR. FERENC SOMOGYI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING
(Ljubljana, 6 December 2005)**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me, first of all, state that Hungary fully associates herself with the statement made earlier by the Presidency of the European Union.

In my national capacity I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Slovenia for its hospitality and the perfect organizational arrangements.

2005 has been an extremely busy year for the Chairmanship-in-Office and all the participating states, and not only because of the anniversaries of the OSCE (CSCE) that we could mark. We appreciate the tireless efforts of His Excellency Dimitrij Rupel and his able team who have done so much to mobilize the OSCE community on at least two fronts: to revitalize the organization and to accelerate our search for solutions to frozen conflicts.

Hungary is not alone in the assessment that the decision made in Sofia to convoke the Panel of Eminent Personalities was the right thing to do. The report and the recommendations that were presented to us by the Panel in a timely manner did serve as a solid foundation for the work on enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE.

We have actively participated in the High Level Political Consultations that revealed important common ground. Yet, subsequent detailed discussions also brought to light a great measure of differences in the positions of the participating states. We believe, however, that these differences mainly reflect the diversity of views on how better to strengthen the effectiveness of our common action. We would like to encourage partners to assist the incoming Chairmanship in continuing this work that calls for further serious and candid debates.

Hungary appreciates the efforts of the Chairmanship to facilitate our search for solutions to frozen conflicts that have been casting a shadow on the Helsinki principles for over a decade and a half.

The OSCE has played an important role in facilitating the fulfilment of standards in Kosovo, and we are convinced that the involvement of the Organization in the process of the forthcoming status talks will be an additional guarantee that all relevant aspects of this complex issue are duly taken into account. Hungary is ready to actively support the OSCE in assuming, within the presence of the international community, a significant role in Kosovo.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary continues to attach great importance to the politico-military dimension of the OSCE. We remain committed to the CFE Treaty, and we expect that the Agreement on Adaptation will enter into force as soon as possible. This can only be done in the context of resolving the remaining Istanbul commitments. We welcome the joint Russian-Georgian declaration, which, we believe, is just the first step in that direction. At the same time, we cannot help calling the attention to the situation in Moldova that continues to give cause for serious concern.

We are looking forward to the third CFE Review conference that is going to take place in May 2006. As co-depositary of the Treaty on Open Skies, Hungary is pleased with the achievements of the first review conference of the Treaty. The continuous enlargement of the Open Skies community is encouraging and fully supported by us.

As for the documents we are to deal with today, they truly reflect the density of the work done during 2005 by our delegations in Vienna, the OCSE Institutions and the OSCE missions in the field. Moreover, they demonstrate our continued commitment to peace, stability, security and

democracy, as well as our resolution to fight terrorism, extremism, and organized crime, which have the common aim of destabilizing our democratic societies.

The persistence of these challenges makes it imperative to maintain our vigilance, for there is no “checked and clear” situation either in the field of security, or in the domains of democracy, the rule of law, or the promotion of human rights, including the rights of national minorities. New and more intricate in their nature, threats now require us to take more complex action. At the same time, our replies should be built on the full implementation of existing commitments – commitments that our community, including the OSCE Institutions, should safeguard in the whole of the OSCE area.

From the series of forward-looking draft decisions before this Ministerial let me mention at least one: the OSCE Concept on Border Security and Management. We are of course aware of the remaining differences in views, nevertheless we have not yet given up our sincere hope that these differences will finally be resolved.

I would also like to use this opportunity to welcome Secretary-General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who is participating at our meeting in his new capacity for the first time. While wishing him all the best, I do confirm our readiness to fully co-operate with him.

In conclusion, I would like to offer our assistance to the incoming Belgian chairmanship and wish our Belgian friends every success in their endeavors.

Thank you.