

**Address by H.E. Prof. Adam D. Rotfeld**  
**Secretary of State**  
**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland**  
**at the 12th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council**  
**Sofia, 6-7<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to associate with the European Union position as expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Recent events in the Ukraine proved unchanged relevance of our organisation. Moreover, they illustrate the transforming power of democratic values which constitute the cornerstone of the OSCE. Due to the experience of Solidarity, whose 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will celebrate next year, Poles know very well that peaceful and persistent fight for human rights and democracy can become a driving force of political change.

Despite undeniable progress in democratic reforms in the OSCE area, still, there are countries where support for democracy and solidarity with people fighting for their rights are needed. The organisation is particularly well suited to provide such support, as it is founded on the principle that human rights and pluralistic democracy is a subject of legitimate concern of the OSCE community of states. Such a support cannot be considered interference or intervention into internal affair of a state. The Moscow Declaration of 1991, in which the OSCE participating states agreed that “the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating states,” has not lost its relevance.

The OSCE has managed to adapt effectively to the challenges it has faced in its history. Today, the organisation needs once again to adjust to the changing international environment, especially since threats to security are increasingly cross and multi dimensional. The activity undertaken by the organisation in its fight against terrorism, trafficking, all forms of discrimination and also in the field of border security has sharpened the OSCE’s responses to the needs of its participating states. It is not a question of purely cosmetic modifications of procedures. Our efforts must go beyond structural reforms. They should be conducive in achieving our common goal - building a secure Europe without discrimination and dividing lines. In this context I welcome the establishment of the OSCE Representatives on combating different forms of discrimination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Building Europe without divisions is a responsibility which we share with other international organisations involved in defending democracy and human rights. Building

security and stability requires developing partnerships, dialogue and complementarity between various international actors.

In this context, on behalf of the chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, I would like to emphasise the need to reinforce complementarity between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Co-operation between the two organisations is already well developed. A recent example is the decision on the enhanced co-operation between these two organisations, elaborated by the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. However, there is still significant scope for stronger relations and concerted actions. We should continue to seek ways of further strengthening modalities for collaboration.

As you may know Poland will host the third Summit of the Council of Europe in May in 2005. The Summit could serve as a springboard for the mobilisation of true synergy and complementarity of the two organisations. Poland, together with Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship, will spare no effort in working towards that aim. I also trust that the *Group of Eminent Persons* we decided to establish will put this issue high on its agenda.

In today's world, co-operation is a prerequisite for security. Europe has never been so empowered institutionally as it is today. Now the task ahead of us is to turn this togetherness into a genuine unity in key aspects of international security.

In closing, I would like to thank our Chairman-in-Office, Minister Passy and his able team for their significant contribution to the work of our organisation in 2004.

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(With your permission, I would also like to say a few words in my capacity as Chairman of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The Council has an important role to play in the Baltic Sea Region. The main priority of Polish chairmanship in the Council is the promotion of crossborder and interregional co-operation with our eastern neighbours – in particular with the Ukraine and Belarus. Since goals and activities of the Council are to a great extent convergent with those of the OSCE, I believe that by developing partnership the two organisations could bring added value to each other's activities.)