

*Joint Communiqué*  
*Vilnius, 6 Dec 2011*

**Ministers of Germany, France, Poland and Russia launch a  
scientific network to pave the way for a Security Community in the OSCE  
area**

At today's OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, the Ministers of Germany, France, Poland and Russia reconfirmed their shared responsibility in further strengthening and developing the vision of a "free, democratic, common and indivisible Security Community", adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana in December 2010.

The four Ministers emphasized today in Vilnius that one year ago in Astana the heads of state and government had adopted the Commemorative Declaration 'Towards a Security Community', which set the goal to build a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok.. The time has come to fill this promise with more concrete substance.

Fully aware of the challenges to this undertaking the ministers are convinced that with the necessary political will and the support of academic experts, parliamentarians, civil society, other participating states and international organizations this mission will be accomplished.

The four Ministers have asked four academic institutes to organize four workshops in Berlin, Warsaw, Paris and Moscow in 2012. These workshops will advance further the discussion on the future character of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. The institutes are invited to present their final report and their recommendations to all OSCE participating States in Vienna in autumn 2012.

With their initiative the four Ministers take up an idea to establish a network of academic institutions, a proposal made by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier during his inaugural speech in the Permanent Council on 4 July 2011. At the same time, the initiative is meant to support both the Lithuanian and the incoming Irish chairmanships.

The seminars in 2012 will be organized by the following four academic institutes:  
the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (Germany), the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (FRS) (France), the Polish Institute for International Relations (PISM) (Poland), and the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO) (Russia).