



*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**BUCHAREST, 3 DECEMBER 2001**

STATEMENT BY

**MR. ADRIAN SEVERIN**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address this distinguished Council on behalf of the several hundred OSCE parliamentarians from the participating States that form our OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Also on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly I would like to congratulate my friend and compatriot Foreign Minister Geoana and his team from Vienna as well as from Bucharest for the outstanding leadership they have provided to the OSCE during the Romanian Chairmanship.

As a Romanian parliamentarian I feel very proud of my country's involvement in the OSCE during this year and that, for the first time, the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the Organisation have carried the same flag of leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is today, after more than 10 years of existence, determined to fully implement the mandate given by the Governments of the participating States through the *Charter of Paris*, and to provide democratic legitimacy to our important international Organisation. The Parliamentary Assembly - as an important institution of the OSCE – has a significant, integral role to play in the actions and activities of our common Organisation.

During the past year, the Assembly, as the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, has continued to provide the added value that only politicians directly elected by the people could bring to this Organisation. We have worked closely with the leadership of the governmental dimension of the OSCE, sharing political action in conflict and transitional areas as well as continuing to contribute political leadership to OSCE election monitoring missions.

The Paris Session showed once again the keen interest of representatives of national legislatures, who are the democratically elected representatives of the people, in the work of the OSCE. Additionally, it has confirmed the parliamentarians' capability to speak about new projects, to formulate new solutions and to test new ideas long before governments have submitted them to debate. In order to use these

assets as efficiently as possible, the parliamentary and governmental branches of the OSCE have to find the best methods of communication, consultation and coordination.

As the world becomes more integrated in every way, parliamentarians are increasingly answerable to constituents not only in domestic matters, but also in those related to the international environment. Recent tragic events have clearly shown the connections between domestic and international policy in the fight against international terrorism. I am proud to say that one of the first comprehensive documents adopted by the OSCE after those sad events took place was the Sintra Declaration of the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA, which maps out guidelines for the fight against global terrorism. We are pleased that the main ideas of that Declaration are included now in the Action Plan against terrorism which the Ministerial Conference will soon adopt. In this context I would like to draw your attention to our concept of "multicultural security" or "security through multiculturalism". Parliamentarians could contribute to the fight against terrorism not only by adopting the necessary legislation, but also by networking across various cultures and by promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue through interparliamentary dialogue.

The fight against terrorism should not be transformed into a means of reaching geo-political goals. At this point we need a definition of terrorism, as well as the development of a strategy able to counteract the roots of terrorism, not only its evil fruits. In this respect the PA is indeed the right place where a political debate could start. Additionally, the PA is one of the staunchest fighters of the antiterrorist campaign as far as taking action against corruption and the lack of democracy, respect for

diversity, pluralism, transparency and accountability. We all must be aware that terrorism cannot be defeated by only military actions pursued against terrorist networks based abroad; it also involves political, social and cultural efforts carried on within each of our States.

Mr. Chairman,

National parliaments, let us remember, provide not only political support, but also political legitimacy for the decisions of OSCE executives. The increasing interest and involvement of OSCE parliamentarians has reflected itself in the agreement to convene an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Session each year in Vienna in the month of February, thus extending the level of contact between us and providing more continuity as well as the opportunity to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of our Annual Sessions in July.

At the same time, members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continue to play an important role in bringing public support to the OSCE as well as acting as a link between the Organisation and national parliaments and governments. Members of Parliament shape public opinion in each of our countries, and mobilise political, legislative, human, financial and budgetary resources to support our entire Organisation.

In this context, we take note that the OSCE has recently substantially increased its budget and it is therefore critical for parliamentarians to understand and support the activities of the OSCE so that they can add their political weight to requests for increased budget allocations for the Organisation.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as reflected in our Declarations, is convinced that we – the Governmental and Parliamentary sides of the OSCE - have to co-operate, as parts of the same Organisation, having a single set of objectives leading to co-operative security in the OSCE area.

We believe that the OSCE should play a leading role in identifying political solutions, facilitating dialogue, and implementing confidence-building measures in crisis areas. Having just returned from the FYR of Macedonia I can inform that in the fluid situation still existing there we can see, as well, the results of the relatively late and marginal involvement of the OSCE in the Macedonian crisis. At least when it is about countries which are exclusively members of the OSCE, our organisation should be the main architect and broker for the political solutions. Today we are confronted there with a general lack of confidence: between ethnic communities, between political actors, between leaders and population, between the Macedonian society and the international community. In the short run, we must overcome this situation and rebuild confidence. In a the long run, we must apply the two main therapies needed for coping with all "balcanic" diseases: education and development. It would be advisable if our approach, including the minorities problem is conceived at the regional level. A donors conference as well as one to guarantee the territorial integrity of those countries are also needed.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve its objectives relating to early warning, conflict prevention, and post-conflict rehabilitation the OSCE must improve its institutional coherence and become a more transparent and accountable Organisation.

Clearly defining the mandates and responsibilities of each OSCE institution is necessary in order to achieve our common goals. The lack of clearly defined lines of authority in the OSCE, and of the legal personality for the Organization, is a constant source of uncertainty for all those who work with us or for us, as well as for those who bear the consequences of our activity. Flexibility does not mean disorder and chaos, in the same way as order does not mean rigidity and centralism. Legal personality and clear rules and regulations mean more democracy, more predictability, more transparency and more accountability, which are necessary conditions for the efficiency of the OSCE. Such improvements will enhance communication, coordination, and harmony of action within and by the OSCE.

At present, the role of the main political bodies of the OSCE, i.e. the Ministerial Council and the Parliamentary Assembly, are diminished in favour of bureaucratic structures. More political guidelines are needed from the capitals to carry out the decisions of the Ministerial Council and the Summits of Heads of State and Government. Each OSCE institution considers itself autonomous and reports to whomever it wishes, whenever and as much as it wishes. Also the role and functions of the Secretary General need to be clarified further in order to make better use of the capabilities and resources of the Secretariat.

Consensus as a principle for adopting decisions has become, on occasion, a secret procedure enabling a small group- or even one delegation - to block the organization or to set it on a different course than the one expected by many of our nations. In many cases these blockages are not for reasons of State but for bureaucratic reasons. The OSCE should rise above these kinds of actions and eliminate the "secret consensus" practice which undermines, at the same time, both transparency and accountability.

Transparency and accountability are also needed to make the work of the OSCE better understood by the international community and by each of our nations, as well as to make the OSCE a stronger, more efficient institution. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has recently established an ad hoc committee on transparency and accountability precisely to assist in these efforts. We welcome the expressions of support for the work of this Committee by the Secretary General and the incoming Chairman-in-Office, as well as by most delegations in Vienna.

The OSCE, it should not be forgotten, is the youngest security organisation in Europe and the process of institutionalisation needs further development. In this context we welcome the initiatives of the Romanian Chairmanship to clarify the OSCE structures and institutions even if we think that the format and the modalities chosen for debating these topics are hardly likely to be effective. During the last few years, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly constantly insisted on the need to modernise the OSCE in order to adapt to the new post bipolar world realities and to make it more relevant for the Participating States. We also suggested that it would be appropriate to form a "Wisemen Group"

in order to prepare a blueprint on the basis of which we could consider the necessary internal changes. The Parliamentary Assembly is ready and willing to provide the required input in this process.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Friends and Colleagues,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will continue to address major issues of concern to the citizens of the OSCE. As an example, the means and ways to fight against terrorism will be a focal point of our debates in Berlin next year.

The Parliamentary Assembly will continue to promote parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE, facilitating inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation while providing a vital link between the governmental side of the OSCE and the directly-elected representatives of the peoples of the OSCE participating States.

When and where appropriate, we will endeavour to provide a parliamentary framework for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The ad hoc committees of the Assembly continue to serve as an important tool in furthering the development of democracy and stability in the OSCE region. The *ad hoc Committees on Belarus, on Moldova, on Kosovo*, and the recently created *ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia*, have contributed to promoting dialogue and seeking co-operation in areas of conflict.

The Committees have promoted, in those different areas, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and assistance in the development of the legal and democratic institutions and processes by



providing advice to the parties in conflict on legal, constitutional, and political frameworks. One of the special attributes of these ad hoc Committees is that they are composed of politicians who normally have easy access to political decision-makers. We are considering the creation of an ad hoc Committee on Nagorno-Karabakh as well, and I have decided to propose to the Standing Committee to enlarge the ad hoc Committee on Kosovo to cover all the region of the former Yugoslavia.

We are also working to develop relations with the Mediterranean and Asian partners for Co-operation. I have already appointed a special representative for Mediterranean affairs. The Assembly intends to devote next year's Fall Parliamentary Conference to the issue of security in the Mediterranean and we are considering the possibility of creating a Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum.

Moreover, an idea for a Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum - in co-operation with the UNDP - is under active consideration. This initiative will give a priority place on our agenda to our Central Asian participants while seeking to involve the Parliaments of the Asian Partners for co-operation.

In this context, let me put forward another new proposal. I believe that the People's Republic of China should be invited by the OSCE to become an Asian Partner for Co-operation. We cannot ignore the importance for security and co-operation of the world's most populous country with a common border with the OSCE. China's recent membership in the WTO adds an important new element in respect to its complex integration into the new global community. It is ever clearer

that future patterns of world cooperative security will depend on the quality and nature of the relations between China and the OSCE States.

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to develop relations and co-operation with other European and Euro-Atlantic parliamentary organisations having missions similar or complementary to those of the OSCE. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly closely co-operates with other international parliamentary institutions and we now regularly carry out projects together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. We have positive experiences from such co-operation by the “parliamentary troikas” in Albania and Belarus and many election-monitoring projects like the very important one in Kosovo. Often it is important to join forces with other international actors, particularly in cases where the international community must speak with one voice. Most recently we organised our annual Fall Conference on Migration in conjunction with the IOM.

We have also achieved progress in the establishment of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Stability Pact. To this end, we put in place a regular method of triparliamentary cooperation together with the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

We will strengthen co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and OSCE field missions, both by setting up ad hoc committees and working groups and by launching a project to establish contact between parliamentarians and OSCE missions in the field. The

first such delegation of parliamentarians, from seven countries, will visit and have briefings at the OSCE missions in Estonia and Latvia later this week. The Parliamentary Assembly is convinced that the OSCE field missions are the most visible instruments of the OSCE in carrying out its mandate of preventive diplomacy, early warning, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation. They form the source of OSCE's most significant comparative operative advantage in relation to the other similar European and Euro-Atlantic organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

We will continue to advocate internal reform in the OSCE with a view to necessary adaptation to the realities of today's world, therefore improving the Co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the other OSCE institutions, while at the same time strengthening the institutional coherence of the Organisation. Our objective is to make our common OSCE a more efficient, visible and effective international organisation. In this context I would like to restate that the Parliamentary Assembly does not seek to control the OSCE or to micro-manage its internal affairs. We consider the PA a valuable partner committed to the success of the Organisation.

The PA will work hard through its specific means, making use of its comparative operative advantage, to assure that:

- 1) Added value to its efforts is provided to the governmental dimension of the OSCE;
- 2) The transparency of the OSCE activities is guaranteed so that everyone is held accountable for their actions;

3) The oversight of national Parliaments over the activity carried on by the executives of the OSCE Participating States is facilitated.

To this end, it is necessary for us to complete and mutually support our efforts, and this can only be done through a correct division of labour and harmonisation of actions.

Consequently, we consider it natural that the governmental side of the OSCE:

- a) Communicate to the parliamentary side, with the appropriate modalities, the results of its decision-making process and the positions taken by each national delegation in arriving at those decisions;
- b) Try to coordinate to the maximum possible extent its policies with the parliamentary dimension;
- c) Adopt clear and transparent position towards the proposals the PA makes through its political resolutions and declarations;
- d) Acknowledge the PA's ability to pronounce, in one way or another, over the Organisation's budget and of appointing its senior officials that have political mandates.

In other words, in essence, the PA of the OSCE claims the right to be consulted, the right to encourage and the right to warn. This implies the right to free and regular access to all events, meetings, debates and information to which all other OSCE governments have access.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

I am convinced that the OSCE has an enormous potential to help all of Europe become an area of peace, stability and co-operation. The challenges that we face today, particularly the fight against terrorism, require unity and coordination between us all. Also, I am sure – as I have expressed on numerous occasions – that this Ministerial Council will find willing allies in their respective parliaments, particularly if you are determined to support the further development and involvement of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE. Such co-operation will be in the best interest of all of us and for the general good of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.