



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE OSCE,
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE AND ALTERNATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF GREECE, H.E DIMITRIS P. DROUTSAS,
AT THE 780th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 November 2009

Madame Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of Serbia it is a special honour and pleasure for me to very warmly welcome the Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, H.E. Mr. Dimitris Droutsas, in his new capacity as the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairmanship, to this meeting of the Permanent Council. We congratulate him on the assumption of his new functions, certainly at a very demanding moment – not only for the OSCE.

As we marked today the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, we understand that this event two decades ago triggered off a multitude of changes and processes, the aftermath of which we as contemporaries still are not able to grasp in all its dimensions. The world changed dramatically, and we daresay – with an unknown outcome. 20 years are nothing, maybe not even a second in the long history of mankind, so history will render its judgement on our time with a wiser knowledge, when it will become more apparent, which minute or hour this second was part of.

Living in times of change, we bear a tremendous responsibility for our future. The way we conduct ourselves in this time of great transformations will constitute a precedent with far-reaching consequences for generations to come. When it comes to us, the participating States of the OSCE, the only way we can contribute to building a future of peace, stability and prosperity is to act in concert, to respect international law and the sovereign equality of states, including their territorial integrity, to reaffirm our common principles and values, to enhance dialogue, to make multilateralism more effective, to achieve consensus on fundamental issues that affect us all.

On this note, Madame Chair, Serbia stands ready to constructively continue to cooperate with the Chairmanship and the OSCE as a whole in facing the challenges before us and to support the Chairman-in-Office, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Giorgos Papandreou, in the realization of the priorities and agenda outlined by Minister Droutsas on our way to Athens. We believe that, at this particular point of time, the future of the Corfu Process in all its aspects is our key challenge and responsibility.

Allow me to quote President Boris Tadić, who said before the United Nations General Assembly in September this year referring to the global changes that we all are witnesses of: “Transformative moments such as this one come along rarely. They are either seized or lost, and the effects can reach across decades. The opportunity is here. We must grasp it and nurture it, so that it grows strong and good.”

This holds true also for the challenges we face in the region of the OSCE.

In concluding, Madame Chair, let me reiterate our full support and express our best wishes to Minister Droutsas and the Chairmanship, including the able Task Force in Athens. And allow me to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Marinaki, and your marvellous delegation for the outstanding work you are doing here in Vienna.

Thank you, Madame Chair.