

Swiss Delegation to the OSCE

Vienna, 24 June 2004

2004 Annual Security Review Conference (Vienna, 23 – 24 June 2004):
Session 3: Comprehensive Security, a Strategic Approach

Speaking points

Mr. Co-ordinator, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the two keynote speakers for their stimulating presentations and for raising such important issues. I will address three of these issues in my short statement, stressing how current international security realities impact on the comprehensive security concept of the OSCE in general, and its politico-military dimension in particular.

Firstly, Professor Rasmussen raised the issue of globalisation, and its implications in terms of security and stability. As stressed by Professor Rasmussen, the internationalisation of trade, of information and of services creates both new opportunities and risks. The negative consequences of the globalisation process must be countered by the promotion of universal values and by closer multilateral co-operation. The comprehensive security concept of the OSCE (with its platform for co-operative security) is well-suited for dealing with the multi-faceted challenges of globalisation.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the question of changing nature of politico-military challenges to arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, raised by Dr. Shamshur. If most OSCE participating States are under no major military threat (originating from either within or without the OSCE area), many new security issues represent real threats to our security and stability, including international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the presence of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The key implications of these new challenges for arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building have not yet been fully identified. The relevance of existing norms, principles and instruments such as those governing non-proliferation and conventional arms

transfers, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Vienna Document 99, and the SALW Document have to be assessed in view of these new challenges.

Thirdly, I wish to stress that besides seeking to develop new norms and adopt new measures deemed necessary, we must focus on implementing the existing *acquis*. Ensuring that this *acquis* is fully implemented by all participating States is an absolute priority. Compliance and implementation, in both letter and spirit, amount to confidence-building for the participating States. Attendance at the Forum for Security Co-operation is not what it should be and we face lapses in implementation efforts, notably in the field of regular information exchanges or other domains such as contacts and verification. Improving the working methods and the structures of the politico-military dimension is also necessary. Over the years, this dimension had to process many information exchanges and take on new tasks (SALW, conventional ammunitions). But frequently, the content of these information exchanges is not properly assessed and the deficits in terms of implementation are not addressed. In addition, SALW and conventional ammunition surpluses represent unprecedented challenges. If we are to exploit information exchanges to the full and in some cases meet longstanding implementation deficits, then operational and structural changes will be required. Practical assessment and follow-up after the submission of the Participating State's information is of paramount importance. Field missions should become part and parcel of the implementation process, providing supportive measures or actions. Finally, a tailor-made structure and steering body, probably within the CPC, is needed in our view to deal on a continuous basis with the conventional ammunition projects.

Mr. Co-ordinator,

I will conclude by stressing that like the norms, principles and measures of the other OSCE dimensions, those of the politico-military dimension have a long-term function and value. *Strategic changes in the transatlantic- Eurasian security architecture, evolving threats and implementation issues* across the OSCE area call for sustained efforts by all participating States to update the politico-military instruments of the

OSCE, and to ensure that the standards of all three dimensions are known and respected at the domestic level.

The main challenge before us is to adapt OSCE instruments and tools to the new reality, without weakening the acquis which remains central to the relevance of this institution. The OSCE is and should remain an inclusive organization of 55 equal participating States living up to their rights and responsibilities.

The coming 30th anniversary of this Organization next year provides an excellent opportunity to focus on this aspect.

Thank you for your attention.
