

**Permanent Delegation of Turkey  
to the OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**Speaking Notes of Ambassador Yusuf Buluç,  
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE  
in Response to H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier,  
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany**

**646<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 18 January 2007**

We also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Dr. Steinmeier to the Permanent Council today and thank him for sharing with us his ideas on enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and the EU.

Let me submit at the outset that I shall not even attempt to emulate the comprehensive content of your presentation Mr. Minister.

Firstly, allow me to congratulate you Mr. Minister on Germany's assumption of the Presidency of the European Union and to wish both you and your country success in carrying out your responsibilities during the challenging period ahead of you.

Mr. Minister,

Turkey, concomitantly but perhaps not uniquely, is a stakeholder where the well-being and success of both the OSCE and the EU are concerned. Policies shaped in the context of both Organizations have a direct impact on our security. The more coordinated, co-operative, coherent and mutually supportive the policies of the two Organizations are, the greater the security coefficient for us and our neighbourhood.

With the adoption of the European Security Strategy, as well as the EU Strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU has acquired a stronger security profile over the course of the last few years. The ESS has identified international terrorism, the proliferation of WMD, regional conflicts, state failure, organized crime and human trafficking as the main threats facing the European Union as a result of which the Union has started to develop the capabilities in order to address these threats. Could you then find a more natural partner than the OSCE, whose threat perception so comprehensively coincides with yours?

In face of these multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, trans-national threats to our collective security an ongoing dialogue between the two Organizations is now necessary more than ever in order to devise joint responses and attain greater strategic commonality.

We have taken note of the 18 month Programme of the German, Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies, which contain several references to OSCE-EU cooperation, not least in the areas of crisis management, counter terrorism and multi institutional cooperation. The OSCE is experiencing in a mutually profitable way a long lineage of Chairmanship in Office by participating states, also belonging to the EU. Perhaps not in the same deliberate way as in the EU Trio, this should result practically in facilitating greater policy coincidence and coordination, as well as coherence and predictability in the medium term. No doubt Germany will seek to optimize the benefits of this scheme.

Moreover, in the last few years challenges to our common security have evolved and become even more complex. Besides the necessity of building and strengthening democratic institutions, civil society and good governance in our geography, we have become painfully aware of the need for addressing divisive perceptions within our own societies as manifested in racist and xenophobic trends. At times they are more than perceptions that are regrettably used in certain instances by political leaders as a tool to manipulate constituencies. Germany as home to its citizens and residents coming from diverse origins, nationalities, cultures and persuasions must lead, also in its present capacity as Presidency of the European Union, not as a laboratory experimenting to craft the most effective policies for integration, but shine as an example for having achieved a successful implementation of such policies. Events demonstrate that the EU is in need of such leadership. Hence, the EU and the OSCE will need to co-operate closely in combating not only such phenomena as anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and intolerance, but equally so addressing the requirements for integrating diversity. I state this with a full awareness of the tasks and the responsibilities of the individuals and communities who must understand that integration cannot happen against their will.

There is equally scope for further co-operation and coordination between the two Organizations towards making an active contribution to the resolution of protracted conflicts in the OSCE region. Extension of the European Neighbourhood Policy to the Caucasus, an area of close national interest for my country, is very welcome. We remain ready to contribute to its obtaining a more tangible substance. Let me also underscore our welcome over the Presidency's intended focus on the Black Sea and Central Asia. This offers a greater geopolitical stage for my country to work with the EU ever more closely, in the case of the Black Sea with other riparian states and in the case of Central Asia with other neighbours. Before closing this theme, let me also point out that neighbourhood is much more than a geographical reality, but a geopolitical phenomenon which bestows mutual responsibilities on its subjects based, as a minimum, on respect for the principles of international law.

In furthering OSCE-EU cooperation, implementation of coherent policies concerning conflict prevention which include integrated civil-military cooperation will also be required. Common efforts by the OSCE and the EU in developing mutually

supportive capabilities for civilian crisis management, particularly in the area of policing and rule of law appear to merit a full consideration.

Mr. Minister,

These are briefly some elements which we wished to highlight, as matters of close concern to my country, for future cooperation between the OSCE and the EU. We look forward to further co-operating with Ambassador Axel Berg and his able team here in Vienna, during the German Presidency and beyond, who have already launched the Presidency in a powerful way.