



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

**Statement under item 6 of the 56 session of the Commission on
Narcotic Drugs: “Implementation of the Political Declaration and
Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an
Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug
Problem”**

Vienna, 13 March 2013

Mr. Chairman (Garcia Revilla)
Executive Director (Fedotov),
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

I would like to begin by pointing out that, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE is ready and willing to assist in the implementation of UN key policies and decisions in its area of competence and its region. And combatting the spread of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors which continue to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of people in the region is indeed a priority for the OSCE.

The drug problem undermines sustainable development, political and socio-economic stability, democratic institutions and it threatens international peace and stability, regional security and the rule of law. According to some expert estimates, approximately 15,3 million young adults in Europe are drug-users.

Today I would like to share with you OSCE's contribution to the implementation of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.

Evolving transnational challenges to security, such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, firearms/small arms and light weapons, money laundering, other forms of transnational criminal activity originate both within and outside the OSCE region. We try to deal with these challenges on the basis of OSCE's inherent strengths - its inclusive membership and multidimensional approach to security - and comparative advantages, including our network of field operations and renowned flexibility.

The **Ukrainian Chairmanship** of the OSCE has confirmed that the drug problem has a very high place on our agenda. OSCE's recipe against this worrisome phenomenon includes strengthening border security, delivering targeted law enforcement training, and strengthening co-operation in the OSCE area.

In fact, with the recent adoption of the *Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors*, the 57 OSCE participating States made addressing this challenge one of their top priorities. The Concept provides a solid platform and political framework for closer co-operation of all the interested stakeholders: participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, civil society and media. Moreover, participating States commit to implement relevant universal drug conventions and to support relevant UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, including the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009.

The *OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities*, also adopted last year, provides further guidance in developing effective and comprehensive national anti-drug strategies with an emphasis on stemming drug supply. The Framework also offers a useful platform for developing training plans and programmes that address drug-related issues for relevant law enforcement agencies, while encouraging their active co-operation.

In addition, one of the goals of our *OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* is to increase the capacity of our 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation when it comes to detecting and interdicting trafficking of illicit drugs across our borders, hence strengthening barriers for illicit narcotics supply.

At field level, most of our **Field Operations** provide, among other, tailored assistance to the host States in developing national anti-drug strategies and holding training courses for policy makers, border and customs officials, police and judicial authorities.

The OSCE **Border Management Staff College** located in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, provides specialized training aimed to strengthen secure borders, which should become hostile to illicit trafficking, but friendly to licit commercial exchange and people to people contacts. More than 600 Central Asian and Afghan border, customs and other law enforcement officials have already undergone advanced training in the College since 2009.

Both at the planning and at the implementation level, **OSCE actively co-operates and coordinates its efforts with UNODC**. Our two organizations draw upon their respective comparative advantages, which are duly reflected in the biannual OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan. In this domain, OSCE also enjoys close co-operation with other international partners, including CSTO, Interpol, Europol, CARICC, Paris Pact Initiative, SELEC etc.

Finally, allow me to mention some key areas where, in my opinion, we could focus our future co-operation:

- Arranging a more systematic sharing of best-practices in tackling the world drug problem at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels;
- Developing and implementing national counter-narcotics' strategies which fully respect fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
- Promoting public-private partnerships with the civil society, including the media;
- Facilitating interaction among States, International and Regional organizations in identifying new instruments for action, while avoiding duplication of efforts;
- Establishing a network to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating illicit drug trade via Internet and other modern information communication facilities.

In conclusion, let me stress that the OSCE stands ready to continue making its contribution to the implementation of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action*, in close co-operation with the UN, other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and mechanisms.

Thank you.