



STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM,

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY

**IN REPLY TO OPENING STATEMENT BY STATE SECRETARY ANDRIS
TEIKMANIS**

680TH FORUM FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

25 April 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to warmly welcome Latvia as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

I would also like to express our appreciation for the work done last semester by the Chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan. Among others, particularly the 22nd Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was an important occasion to review last years' implementation issues, which also shed light on the future work regarding the Vienna Document. It also provided the opportunity to discuss how to make better use of Heads of Verification meetings.

We are grateful for the presence among us today of State Secretary Andris Teikmanis, and thank him for his comprehensive opening statement.

We fully support the work programme set out by the Latvian FSC Chairmanship, which provides an excellent framework for working towards our common goals in the fields of arms control, non-proliferation, confidence and security building measures, small arms and light weapons, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as well as other CSBM tools. We also value the Security Dialogue, which remains a valuable forum for addressing and exchanging views on current security issues. Joint FSC-PC meetings have the potential to make positive contributions to our work as well.

I agree with Ambassador Teikmanis's comment that the ambitions for tangible solutions for protracted conflicts should not be lessened. No doubt, there is a need for political will to sustain a determined path towards the resolution of the protracted conflicts that the OSCE was mandated to deal with. This requires a spirit of dialogue and compromise. Being a neighbouring country that is naturally affected by instability and status-quo, Turkey attaches great importance to comprehensive and sustainable peace, stability and prosperity. A lasting settlement will not only be in the interest of the parties to the conflict, but also in the interest of all countries in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

We are confident that the Latvian Chairmanship will deploy every effort to take FSC work further. In this vein, I would like to express my country's readiness to contribute to those efforts in a cooperative and constructive spirit.

Thank you.