



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Informal Meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers

**OSCE Secretary General
Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**

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Mr. President,

Minister Saudabaeyev,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eighteen months ago in Helsinki, the Foreign Ministers of Greater Europe started a journey that has already taken them remarkably far. The fundamental questions of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security have been systematically reviewed and reappraised in the light of the existing body of OSCE commitments and cross-dimensional security. New challenges have been identified. New crises have emerged. This meeting offers us the opportunity to take stock of these first steps and to draw practical conclusions from this reappraisal. The first conclusion is a political one: Common resolve and the spirit of community must be strengthened amongst the participating States.

Kazakhstan has been active in this respect through its OSCE Chairmanship, its leadership of the Corfu Process, and its calling of this meeting. Yesterday's debate has shown that there is a shared feeling among Foreign Ministers of the need for intensified cooperation. Important steps have been taken to restore a sense of trust.

The time has come to move to concrete action and to step up the pace.

This meeting in Almaty and, I would suggest, the proposal to hold an OSCE Summit in 2010 should be grasped as opportunities to act at three levels:

- ◆ First, to renew shared ownership of the agreed norms, principles and commitments that govern the behaviour and interaction of all participating States;
- ◆ Second, to address methodically the problems that divide today the OSCE participating States – including the protracted conflicts and arms control;
- ◆ Finally, to forge effective collective action against challenges that we face in common -- for instance, related to Afghanistan, TNTs.

On this basis, there is no lack of substance calling for the highest level attention by the participating States. An OSCE summit would provide an opportunity to strengthen unity and resolve among the 56 participating States.

Hard work, therefore, lies ahead:

- ◆ If a decision is taken to hold a summit, the participating States must undertake a comprehensive Review Conference, covering all three OSCE Dimensions. This will be demanding.
- ◆ Work will have to start also on defining the outline of an Action Plan for Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security that would be launched at the summit meeting. Work so far in the Corfu Process provides a good basis for this; now the time

has come to determine concrete priorities and to work toward consensus decisions.

- ◆ None of this can be divorced from reality. We need to finalise the agreement to allow for the deployment of the Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan. We need to see progress in the settlement processes in Georgia and Moldova and positive developments over Nagorno-Karabakh. We need to take further steps forward in strengthening the Organization's engagement with Afghanistan. These are matters of urgency.

Ministers, your engagement is needed for the OSCE to fulfil these expectations. Work in Vienna needs the continuous input, ideas and the resources of capitals. The time left before a summit is very short. Complacency cannot stand. Your predecessors drafted the Helsinki Final Act at the height of the Cold War. They signed up to the ambitions of the Paris Charter at a critical moment of hope.

This Organization has just shown real resilience and effectiveness in assisting one of its participating States —Kyrgyzstan-- in difficult times. All of its components are active. The leadership of the OSCE Chairmanship, the participating States in the Permanent Council, the activities of the Centre in Bishkek, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the support of the referendum and the forthcoming elections, the High Commissioner on National Minorities through its vigilant input, the Parliamentary Assembly by its deliberations, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Strategic Police Matters Unit through their work to design the Police Advisory Group, the forthcoming visit of the Representative on Freedom of the Media —all of these have shown how the diverse elements of your toolbox can work jointly.

We need a similar effort in the coming months if we want to have a solid agenda for a summit, drawing on inputs like the four priorities proposed by the EU, and articulating a Plan of Action, while addressing ongoing crises and the protracted conflicts.

These steps require the courage to look beyond immediate problems in order to envisage a common security space without dividing lines. They require the will to act together in challenging situations. With renewed courage and will, you can choose to reinvigorate the rich and living common heritage of the OSCE and to build a united and indivisible security community across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. This is the choice. This is the chance.

May Kazakhstan and its President be thanked for this debate and this opportunity possible.

Thank you for listening.