

**Statement**  
**by His Excellency Mr. Sergei Martynov**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus**  
**at the OSCE Ministerial Council**  
**(Athens, 1-2 December 2009)**

Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Colleagues,

The current OSCE Ministerial is taking place **against the background of a more intensified dialogue** on how to overcome an **acute deficit and fragmentation of security, lack of sustainability and stability** that have been building up in recent years in Euro-Atlantic space.

A well-timed impetus to this discussion which is going on in different formats was given by **the initiative of the Russian Federation to elaborate a legally binding Treaty on European Security**. A concrete and logical way towards renovating the European security architecture has been proposed. We have to search through our joint efforts for an optimum format and platform.

We welcome in this context the fact of recent promulgation by the Russian side of the draft Treaty and are ready to work thereon in an active and subject-oriented manner.

Our Organization, the OSCE, despite some crisis phenomena related to the **incompleteness of the reform and imbalance in its activity**, remains as before an important venue for addressing the European security issues in general. The last year Ministerial meeting in Helsinki and the informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Corfu in June have confirmed this status.

**The Corfu Process** has not only reinvigorated the discussion within the OSCE but focused on **issues of real topicality and significance**. In this connection we welcome the efforts by the Greek Chairmanship which has

given a kick-start to this process. It is perhaps for the first time in recent years that we have approached the beginning of a **thematic dialogue** on long-standing measures aimed at enhancing transparency and trust in the OSCE area, overcoming the fragmented nature of the European security space, ensuring equal guarantees of security, and gaining progress in settling the frozen conflicts.

**A fundamental achievement of the consultation process we have launched** is, in our opinion, the emerging partners' openness in discussing the issues of enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE and its executive structures, streamlining the existing instruments and mechanisms. But we have to start with the main issue – the **OSCE must become a fully-fledged international organization** that would possess its own Charter.

Belarus welcomes the continuation of **the thematic consultations** within the Corfu process. We stand for a truly inclusive approach based on the account of opinions of all participating States, **inviolability of the consensus principle and equal significance of all three dimensions of security**.

Within the framework of a new round of the Corfu Process we propose to address as first-priority issues the ways of updating the **Vienna Document of 1999 and** restoring the viability of **the CFE Treaty**.

**Countering trans-national challenges and threats** such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, trafficking in drugs and human beings should naturally remain among our priorities.

It is important to work on further strengthening the OSCE role **in the sphere of protecting critical energy infrastructure, using alternative and renewable energy sources, enhancing energy efficiency**. Belarus makes its concrete contribution to developing the energy dialogue. Minsk has hosted a number of OSCE events on energy issues. At the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly Belarus has put forward the **initiative to elaborate a global mechanism to improve access to technologies of new and**

**renewable sources of energy** by the developing states and states with economy in transition. This initiative has already gained a broad support.

We believe that **human dimension activities of the OSCE**, following economic and environmental ones, need serious optimization. This should not be some cosmetic half measures, but a whole set of balanced and important decisions.

At the same time it is quite clear that to discuss the accumulated problems **at the OSCE level only** is impossible. This dialogue should involve all key security structures active in Euro-Atlantic region. The idea to hold in 2010 a meeting **at the level of the OSCE and other international organizations' leadership, dealing with issues of security**, such as CSTO, CIS, EU and NATO, is expedient as never before.

To use the capacity of such cooperation in full it is essential to engage **the parliamentary dimension** in the discussion on European security. Therefore we propose **to convene a parliamentary conference** with participation of the aforementioned organizations at the level, for example, of relevant commissions of these organizations dealing with international affairs and security issues.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2010 the world will mark the **65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War** – the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind that took millions of human lives. That is why we have proposed **to adopt** in Athens a **declaration** confirming the unanimity of the participating States **in aversion to violence and use of force**.

One cannot but mention one more historic date – 20 years since the Fall of the Berlin Wall that became a symbol of the beginning of reconciliation process in Europe. Much has been achieved, but more comprehensive efforts

are needed to finally erase the **dividing lines** of the past and to escape the emergence of the new ones, including invisible hurdles between our nations. For this reason the topic of **freedom of movement and facilitation of visa regimes** should remain in the OSCE agenda.

Today we have already approached the landmark when we should evaluate the present role of the OSCE at the new stage 35 years after Helsinki and to outline the strategy for its further development. In this context we welcome the proposal of Kazakhstan to hold the OSCE Summit in 2010 and are ready to interact with Kazakhstan and all delegations on preparations for this event.

In conclusion let me express gratitude to Greece for its input in the Organization's activity in capacity of the Chairmanship-in-Office and for the extended hospitality during our stays in Corfu and Athens.

We would like to wish Kazakhstan successful work as the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office in 2010.

Thank you.