

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION

By Bulgarian Delegation to the 2004 ASRC

**Session 1, Preventing and Combating Terrorism
(Vienna, 23 June 2004)**

Our participating States and the OSCE bodies and institutions have made combating terrorism a top priority both in word and action and a lot has been achieved in a relatively short time. However, we also know that not all commitments have been or are being met. Despite a considerable increase in the ratification rate of the 12 Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments, we still have participating States which are not Party to all 12 of them. Not all participating States have completed the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) self-assessment questionnaire and have not designated Principal Liaisons for the Counter-Terrorism Network. The first deadline in the implementation of the Travel Document Security Decision is just around the corner and we do not know what participating States are doing to meet it. And these are what I would call the more technical commitments. Then what about the more political ones, contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action, the Porto Charter and the Maastricht Strategy? Their implementation is even more crucial for the success of our common goal – to contain and eventually eliminate terrorism.

As we can see, much remains to be done in this area and the Annual Security Review Conference should become a forum for an honest and serious discussion on how we can speed implementation of our commitments on all fronts and look into the future.

The major terrorist attacks over recent months against OSCE participating States confirm that the terrorist threat in the OSCE region is real and present. These attacks demonstrate that this threat is multi-faceted and much more complex than previously thought. It is clear that it will not wane but is likely to become even more serious over the coming months and years. To address this challenge, we must rethink our approaches and look beyond what we have today, consider new areas, where our organization can contribute to better safeguard our region.

And even if our work manages to reduce the possibility of a terrorist attack by only ten percent, we will have made a difference, we will have saved lives! We should try to anticipate threats, rather than react to disasters after they have

already happened. We must use every opportunity we have, so that the enemy will have one less.

Therefore, here are some other current and emerging threats, which the participating States might wish to consider putting on the OSCE agenda:

Asymmetric and Non-Conventional Threats. The threat of a terrorist attack on populated centers, on industrial and agricultural infrastructure is real and growing. Terrorists have an interest in and are seeking radiological materials for the making of radiological dispersion devices (RDDs), the so called "dirty bombs." Such material is abandoned and easily obtained in many countries, particularly in the OSCE region, both east and west of Vienna. In view of recent research indicating the even greater seriousness of the threat posed by radiological devices, we should begin our efforts on this aspect of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) attacks. If resources allow, it would be worth to also address the chemical, biological and nuclear aspects.

Container Security. Containerized shipping is a major component of security, as about 90% of the world's cargo is transported in containers. At the same time only an insignificant number of such shipments are under adequate control and we know that terrorists already are exploiting this as a conduit for their activities. As a quarter of the world shipping volume occurs in European harbors, the OSCE might start thinking of its possible contribution to enhancing the security of these shipments.

Strengthening National and Regional Level CT Co-ordination. Counter-terrorism co-ordination both within national administrations and regionally still needs improving. The OSCE could consider providing its further input in this activity.

Conventional Explosives. Conventional explosives remain the main means of terrorist attacks. They would also be an essential component in making the radiological dispersal devices I mentioned earlier. As the attacks in Madrid and elsewhere have demonstrated, such explosives are easily obtainable from civilian sites. Therefore, there is an urgent necessity to look into the issue of strengthening the security of such sites.

Energy Infrastructure Security. As recent attacks in Saudi Arabia have shown, terrorists are targeting elements of the energy infrastructure in a period of high energy demand. These are vulnerable targets with potentially devastating effects on people and economies alike, because our world is totally dependent on the uninterrupted flow of energy of every form and type. Taking the necessary steps

to deter terrorists from exploiting the vulnerabilities of our energy infrastructure may prove to be a valuable contribution to our overall security.

Internet Security. Because of the relative success of law-enforcement agencies in denying terrorists freedom of movement, maintaining contact, recruiting and training, they are relying more and more on the Internet as an organizational, communication and propaganda tool. (The discussions during last week's conference in Paris highlighted this trend.) Therefore, the OSCE might wish to consider ways and measures to safeguard the Internet against such abuse, taking due account, of course, of the necessity to observe the freedom of expression.

Extremism. We must continue to safeguard human rights as we strengthen our counter-terrorism efforts. In recent years the OSCE has conducted a number of useful activities on political and religious tolerance. However, for the success of these efforts, we cannot ignore the threat that political and religious extremism poses on human rights. We should try to better understand it and find more efficient ways to counter it.

These are just some of the possibilities for the OSCE to make an additional contribution to the fight against terrorism. It is not and can not be an exhaustive list and I look forward to hearing your views in our session on preventing and combating terrorism. It would be unrealistic to think that our organization can tackle all challenges. We should carefully balance threats against OSCE's comparative advantages and resources for our contribution to be meaningful. We should also join forces with other organizations, which have experience and expertise in many of these areas, to enhance and leverage our respective efforts.

The OSCE has important achievements in combating terrorism, which have been internationally recognized, including by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC). We should bravely continue along this road if we want our organization to remain relevant in this difficult situation.

Delegation of the
Republic of Bulgaria