



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Statement by the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Ján Kubiš, At the SEECP Summit

Bucharest, 11 May 2005

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to represent the OSCE at this Summit of the SEECP, and I thank our host – Romania – for the hospitality extended to all of us. I also congratulate Romania on the successful chairmanship of the SEECP and wish the incoming Chairmanship of Greece much success as well.

The OSCE highly values the SEECP as one of its partner regional structures – a structure that has a strong comparative advantage: it was created at the initiative of its members and expresses their interests. This sense of regional ownership and leadership creates the best environment for strengthened regional co-operation, for promoting democratic reforms and transformation, economic and solid development, and regional stability. Such an environment of mutual understanding and support has already shown positive political and practical results, such as the SECI Center in Bucharest, which we visited today.

Shared aspirations of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of SEECP states are based on common standards and values, and their implementation. These values are also the OSCE ones. The OSCE is thus a natural partner of the SEECP. OSCE states work with you bilaterally and through many instruments of the OSCE, including OSCE Missions. This co-operation has developed in many areas, identified also by the SEECP, as priority ones, such as democratic reforms and institutions building, including police reform, combating organized crime, terrorism, trafficking of all kind or corruption, or promoting rule of law and good governance, democratic elections and freedom of the media. The OSCE is also an indispensable partner in working together with you for sustainable and democratic, European solutions to problems such as Kosovo and Transdniestria.

In all these areas, we work in concert with our international and regional partner organizations, institutions and initiatives, many of them present here, such as the UN, the EU, the CoE or SECI and Stability Pact.

In conclusion, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to you as OSCE participating States. Another organization of yours, the OSCE, is in the process of reforming itself – to become more useful and relevant to you. I encourage your representatives in Vienna to get actively engaged in this discussion so as to achieve good results before the end of the year.

Thank you for your attention.