

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. NABI ŞENSOY  
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AT THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**5 December 2005, Ljubljana**

Mr. Chairman,

Minister Gül has asked me to convey to His Excellency Minister Rupel and also his team of colleagues entrusted to exercise the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE his appreciation for their leadership and efforts, throughout what must come to be recorded as a difficult year in the history of our Organization. But perhaps likewise, a year which we hope will be praised as a turning point, marked by a reaffirmed sense of purpose and solidarity among the participating States.

In view of the special significance of 2005, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, we would do well to remember that our achievements, as well as our failings, can hardly be measured with the yardstick of activities conducted solely this year. Our acquis and commitments, since Helsinki; our culture of co-operation in the implementation of our commitments, despite shortcomings in all of our participating States; our collective will to submit the implementation of our commitments to peer review are achievements that we can be proud of. Our commitments continue to apply equally to all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

The theme which has broadly shaped the OSCE agenda in 2005 has been “reform”. We are heartened that during this process a climate of co-operative dialogue has emerged between participating States. Turkey took an active part in the elaboration of reform measures and we look forward to continuing our constructive dialogue next year. We are well aware that reform is a process which will require our long term engagement and political will.

Terrorism with its direct links to transnational organized crime and all forms of illegal trafficking continues to threaten our collective security as we have been painfully reminded once again by the bombings in London and most recently in Jordan. Our work in countering terrorism must continue unabated as a complementary part of the global strategy on combating this scourge.

We praise the Slovenian Chairmanship for placing on the agenda of our Organization another issue, unfortunately, neglected far too long in an Organization which has a rightful claim to address the concept of security in a comprehensive way. I am referring to migration and integration. The results of the work carried out at the OSCE and the partnership established with other relevant international organizations on these issues throughout 2005, demonstrate

that our Organization can provide added value to international efforts in this field. We look forward to taking this task forward with the Belgian Chairmanship next year.

Mr. Chairman,

Closely linked with our emphasis on migration and integration are the issues of intolerance and discrimination in our societies. We welcome the appointment of the three Representatives of the Chairman in Office on combating the various forms of intolerance and discrimination encountered in the OSCE geography. The Representatives have already demonstrated their value by highlighting our collective concern for this most serious affront to human dignity. One, which if unchecked, risks leading our societies to enmity and hatred based on the perceived “otherness” or “inferiority” of peoples from different cultural backgrounds. In their efforts the Representatives deserve our full support. In this vein we welcome the partnership established between the Council of Europe and look forward to developing working relationships with other regional organizations on issues of common concern, as well as lending our support to initiatives of mutual benefit such as the “Alliance of Civilizations” spearheaded by Spain and Turkey. We also hope that the recent address by the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference to the Permanent Council marks the beginning of closer institutional contacts with this organization further bolstered by increased cooperation with adjacent geographies in line with outreach activities in the upcoming period.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the progress in the talks between our neighbours Azerbaijan and Armenia on the resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. We hope that 2006 will see a breakthrough. Turkey’s efforts, active encouragement and facilitation of a final settlement of the conflict based on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan will be sustained.

We also welcome the joint declaration between the Russian Federation and our neighbour Georgia on the withdrawal of Russian troops, arms and equipment from bases in Georgia. The recent peace plan of the Georgian government on the South Ossetia conflict can serve as a basis for future negotiations and deserves our support. We call upon the parties to engage in a constructive dialogue to this end.

In Moldova Turkey hopes that the new negotiation format will bring additional impetus. We regret that no progress has been recorded in 2005 towards the resolution of the Trans-Dniestr conflict. We look forward to the earliest fulfilment of Istanbul commitments.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Turkey attaches great importance to the CFE treaty as the cornerstone of the European security architecture. We are committed to the early entry into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, I once again thank Slovenian Chairmanship for their efforts on behalf of all of us and extend our best wishes to the incoming Belgian chair and offer them our customary cooperation.

Thank you.