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**STATEMENT BY MR. PIERRE LELLOUCHE,  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, AT THE  
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 20 May 2010

Mr. Chairperson,  
Secretary General,  
Ambassadors,

It is a great honour for me to speak at this meeting of the Permanent Council to the representatives of the 56 OSCE participating States and of the Mediterranean and Asian partners and I should like to thank you warmly for allowing me this opportunity to do so.

In particular, I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for your warm welcome and to pay tribute to the Kazakh Chairmanship, which is leading our Organization effectively and with a good deal of dedication and enthusiasm. I should also like to mention how much we owe to Kazakhstan and to its President in particular for their contribution to combating nuclear proliferation.

Allow me also to pay homage to the work accomplished in the last few years by the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. France is gratified that one of its citizens is contributing in such a notable manner to the development of this Organization.

Through the Secretary General, I should like to express my recognition and admiration for all OSCE staff members, particularly those in the field missions, who are exposed and have to work in frequently difficult conditions. They render a priceless service to all of us. I am not saying this merely as a diplomatic compliment, since I have had the occasion to see the missions in action and to participate in the monitoring of elections.

As the member of the French Government responsible for European affairs, I am also happy to be here within an organization in which the European Union is so visible and in evidence, by reason of the number of Member States and those that back EU positions within the Organization, through the fact that it accounts for two thirds of the budget and the staff membership, and finally through its united voice within the Permanent Council. In comparison with a lot of other international organizations, the EU has a special position in the OSCE, which serves as a model platform for European foreign policy.

Spain currently holds the Presidency of the EU, a position that involves co-ordinating and representing the Union. It is France's wish that this important task be assumed as soon as

possible by the delegation of the European Union, as stipulated by the Treaty of Lisbon. Apart from a stable presidency, the EU now has a veritable minister of foreign affairs, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also Vice-President of the European Commission, and it will soon have a European External Action Service. Together, these structures provide the necessary instruments for responsible and more effective international action. All this is a question of will, and I can confirm that France is working actively towards the rapid implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.

European Political Co-operation, the forerunner of the European Common Foreign and Security Policy, expanded precisely in conjunction with the former CSCE. Today, EU foreign policy fully appreciates the importance of the OSCE in the pursuit of its objectives. In recognition of this importance, France and Germany have suggested a joint Franco-German Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The history of Europe has been marked by a movement towards democracy and unity. France has long played a singular role in this movement:

- Last weekend we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which extended a hand to Germany and its other European neighbours and formed the basis for the building of Europe.
- France contributed 35 years ago to the Helsinki Final Act in which agreement was reached on the principles for regulating relations between States within our region, confirming the interest of all States in respecting human rights in every other State. This, too, was a very important step towards reconciliation throughout Europe and not just in Western Europe.
- It is 20 years since the artificial division of the continent came to an end and the Charter of Paris was adopted, resulting in new commitments and institutions within the CSCE and then the OSCE. In this way the OSCE contributed specifically in many European countries to enlarging the security space established by the EU. Further convergence within this process is the interest of all.

Thanks to these steps, our security is no longer assured solely by military and defence measures by each State or by alliances and organizations within our shared space. It is also assured by a co-operation framework within the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian regions as a whole, a wide-ranging concept of security on a politico-military basis but also with human and economic dimensions, with respect for the legitimate concerns and interests of all but also for the free choice of alliances and a commitment to the indivisibility of European security.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Secretary General,  
Ambassadors,

The process of change is speeding up on a global scale. We are experiencing a rapid shift in the power hierarchy. We have entered into a new phase in our history: following on from post-war reconciliation, reunification and peace throughout the European continent, we are now seeing new global power struggles in which our nations will have to consider their future in a globalized world and will have to act together to defend their common interests

and to shape tomorrow's world. This is how we see it in France. Our world is changing. After 9/11, after Iraq and Afghanistan, the awareness of globalization through the impact of the financial crisis has had a genuine catalyzing effect. These shocks remind us that no State, not even the largest ones, can hope to act on its own and that only by solving the problems we still face will it be possible to work together towards reorganizing the world.

In the light of such challenges, the difficulties that are sometimes encountered cannot serve as a pretext for minimizing the utility of the OSCE or for questioning its relevance. On the contrary! The recent crisis in Kyrgyzstan has reminded us that it is capable of reacting quickly and well to such crises. The work carried out by its institutions and missions is sometimes unseen but it makes a real contribution to the unity within our common space.

This unity needs to be strengthened within our Organization but also in our minds. Confidence cannot be imposed but is created by working to overcome divisions inherited from the past and through a common determination to pursue a joint vision in our mutual interests based on the values on which our societies are founded. We need to work both towards the security of Europe and towards security within Europe. I should like to reiterate here what I said to the EU ambassadors this morning: this forum is unequalled in terms of the expertise it represents and the dialogue that it permits among all of the actors on the European continent.

The European security dialogue initiated within the OSCE in 2008 should result in the definition of this common vision.

France has fully supported this dialogue so as to prevent another war on our continent, as occurred two years ago in Georgia.

It has advocated the holding of this dialogue within the OSCE because all of the interested States are joined here by a wide-ranging concept of security reflecting the vision as outlined by the President of France in Evian in autumn 2008.

This vision also calls for the creation of an economic and human security space shared by all of the actors on the continent, by the EU and Russia, and for the strengthening of the EU's relations with its continental partners through the Eastern Partnership, and with its neighbours to the south through the Union for the Mediterranean.

The OSCE has responded to our expectations so far through the launching of the Corfu Process. The Chairmanship will be presenting a summary of the proposals in June. France hopes that the informal ministerial meeting in Almaty in July, at which the future of the Process will be discussed, will reach agreement on the holding of a summit at the end of the year with a project that will help to mobilize us all.

We can indeed base our unity only on a project that responds to our needs, reflects our aspirations, matches our ideals and offers benefits for all.

We will move forward if we set ourselves the goal of embarking on a new stage in the historical development of our countries towards a veritable community of Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian security in the twenty-first century. I should like to state here quite clearly that for the French the era of Cold War must be put behind us. I urge you to face the future in a new state of mind and to look resolutely towards the building of a region of shared

prosperity, shared security and trade. Now that the Cold War has ended, I call upon you to consider the great changes that are currently taking place.

This community should be founded on the commitments and principles that unite us, particularly those set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

It should give substance to the notion of the indivisibility of security and allow the legitimate interests of all to be taken into account without questioning the right of each State to choose its alliances freely, while bearing in mind that the significance of these alliances has changed considerably. We should regard these alliances in the light of these changes.

This community should guarantee security within our region and should therefore lead us to move resolutely towards the settlement of the conflicts that unfortunately continue to exist there and to prevent new crises from arising:

- In Moldova, France backs efforts to settle the Transdniestrian conflict through the 5+2 talks while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova, which I visited recently. It supports Ms. Ashton's work for greater EU involvement in this process. And allow me to tell you that I dream of the day when a buffer force in Transnistria, including European Union forces, ensures peace and unity in Moldova.
- In Georgia, a country I know and that has close links with France, we call for respect of its independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognized frontiers. In this regard, I should like to pay tribute to the OSCE activities, which I have seen in action, and the Kazakh co-chairmanship of the discussions in Geneva. I should also like to point out that in our opinion the return of an OSCE and a UN presence in the field is indispensable.
- As co-chairman of the Minsk Group, France is committed to supporting the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan in finalizing the basic principles for settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In spite of the difficulties that have been encountered, a balanced and negotiated political solution is the only possibility. Here, too, French diplomacy is in action and I shall be visiting the Caucasus soon for this purpose.

This security community that we are calling for should also provide for an effective arms control regime. It is paradoxical that in a Europe in which divisions are now a thing of the past, the conventional arms control regime is less effective and functions less well than it did 20 years ago, when the tensions were otherwise much greater. France is willing to help relaunch discussions on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and confidence- and security-building measures. At a time when we are going through the worst economic and financial crisis for 80 years, we should be able to move towards agreement on arms control. Budgetary constraints will oblige us to progress in this direction.

But we have to look even further ahead. There is a need for greater co-ordination and cohesion between the various international organizations in Europe. Why not take a new look at the security issues on our continent as suggested by President Sarkozy two years ago and overcome all of the reflexes and habits of the past?

We can do this within the OSCE, the only body that brings together all of those involved in pan-European security on an equal footing. But we need to understand that our security does not depend solely on a balance of forces but also on shared values: democracy first of all, and human rights, which are essential to stability. This is an integral component of what the European Union, a union of democracies, stands for.

A pan-European security framework would thus contain security arrangements with regard to arms but also a confirmation of the values, instruments and institutions that enable us to protect and give voice to this stability.

Security in Europe today is not just an internal factor but also applies at the borders of our shared space as we confront shared threats and challenges there. The community that we want to erect should therefore unite us in dealing with the threats and challenges that affect us all: terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and organized crime. It should also strengthen our solidarity with regard to the multifaceted and complex threats posed by the situation in Afghanistan. The EU should contribute within the OSCE by addressing all of the security problems and gradually playing a determining role in its own security.

Is this aim realistic? Scepticism needs to be overcome just as it has been overcome at every step in the development of our continent towards democracy over the years. It is my conviction that the plans for developing the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian community are the historic mission of our generation. I say this as a Frenchman, as a European and as the representative of a government that is driven by a political will to turn over a new page in our history and to join in establishing a region of shared prosperity and security that our citizens aspire to.

Thank you for your attention.