

**15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council  
Madrid, 29-30 November 2007  
Statement by H.E. Mr. Ivailo Kalfin,  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic  
of Bulgaria**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to start my intervention with the expression of sincere gratitude to the Chairman-in Office, H.E. Minister Moratinos Cuyabe, and his team for the tireless efforts in preparing and organizing our meeting in the beautiful city of Madrid.

Associating with the Statement of Portugal on behalf of the European Union, I would like to touch upon several issues in national capacity.

**What makes the OSCE still necessary?** It is the fact of being an inclusive organization for promoting peace and security and for co-operation on vital issues of our societies, an organization which by means of preventive diplomacy and through its instruments of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, builds mutual confidence in conditions of full equality, thus preparing a response to both old and new threats and challenges to security – before and now, in the 21st century.

No doubt, **terrorism** constitutes one of these major new threats to security. While acknowledging the leading role of the United Nations, we strongly support our Organization's active involvement in the fight against terrorism through implementation of the relevant OSCE documents and decisions. Time and again it has become clear that we can be successful only if international efforts in this area are based on two fundamental principles: first - nothing can justify the crime of terrorism, and second - the fight against terror should be conducted with full respect for human rights.

The so called **“frozen” or “protracted” conflicts** remain another major threat to security in the OSCE area. Several times over the recent years they seemed to be coming up to the verge of erupting again into chaos and violence thus reconfirming the truism that if things do not improve they are bound to deteriorate. It seems that a more realistic approach needs to be applied to the conflicts dealt with by the OSCE while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and using all available

instruments for reaching a peaceful resolution. With this in mind, we would welcome further steps towards achieving a lasting settlement of the conflicts in South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Transnistria. Same goes for the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh where for several years now the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group within their purview have been preparing promising formulas for lasting solution. It is time that a greater political will and energy is manifested so that tangible progress is achieved.

We encourage and actively contribute to the constructive role played by the OSCE, particularly through its field operations in **the Western Balkans**. So far as the negotiating process on **Kosovo** is concerned, we all recognize the important role of the Troika at this crucial moment and hope that no effort will be spared to find a consensus-based solution, supported by the whole international community and serving for a corresponding UN Security Council resolution. In any case, it is undoubtedly vital to ensure a continued strong presence of the international community in Kosovo, irrespective of the outcome of the UN-mandated Troika process. We therefore support the proposed extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo until 31 December 2008.

Certainly, the **politico-military dimension** remains an indispensable part of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security. In the course of the further adaptation of the Organization to the new security environment we witness a revived interest in its activities within the framework of the Forum for Security Co-operation as well as in the process of implementation of the documents it has adopted.

Here I would like to reiterate my country's commitment to the **CFE Treaty** and the integrity of its entire regime. We are ready to work for achieving the earliest possible entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation. We call on the Russian Federation to continue its full participation in the CFE regime while the substantive dialogue on overcoming the stalemate on the CFE Treaty is underway.

We appreciate the efforts of the Spanish Chairmanship-in-Office to promote an active OSCE approach and help address the growing challenges to **environmental security** that participating States face. We therefore favour the adoption of an OSCE Declaration on Environment and Security, which makes a reference to the contributions our Organization can make, in concert with the United Nations and other organizations, to strengthen co-operation on security related environmental issues throughout the OSCE region.

The OSCE continues to manifest its unique expertise and contribution to the **human dimension** of security. We should continue to further strengthen our responses to the new challenges to security arising in our region, such as trafficking of all kinds, organized crime and xenophobia. In the **fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination**, we deem it imperative to maintain political determination and ensure effective practical implementation of the decisions adopted so far avoiding unnecessary duplication.

Bulgaria strongly supports continued and intensified efforts of the OSCE in introducing new tools and initiatives to **combat abhorrent forms of human rights violations**.

Widely recognized by the international community, the OSCE **election observation** methodology and expertise play an essential role in helping strengthen democracy in our region.

The efforts to **strengthen the effectiveness** of the OSCE continued this year in accordance with the Brussels Ministerial Council decisions and were aimed at achieving a full, efficient use of the potential of the Organization. We cannot but express our appreciation for the work of the Informal Group in Vienna that has prepared the Convention on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE which would be a valuable asset for improving the functioning of the Organization. At the same time we are ready to contribute to further work on devising a Statute or Charter of the OSCE on the basis of modalities agreeable for all.

As we are all aware, a decision on the Organization's **future chairmanship** is a matter of utmost political importance. Bulgaria, like the EU as a whole, supports the efforts of the Spanish Chairmanship to reach a consensus solution of the situation with the present candidacies for this position and hopes that a compromise would be found - acceptable to all parties concerned and based on a sequence of three successive Chairmanships-in-Office.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me in conclusion to express once again my high appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the Spanish Chairmanship over the passing year and to welcome Finland at this difficult and responsible post with the best wishes for success.