

**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE  
13<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
Ljubljana 5 – 6 December 2005**

**STATEMENT BY KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first to express my appreciation to the Slovenian Chairmanship for the warm hospitality and excellent working conditions extended to us here in Ljubljana.

I sincerely hope that at this Ministerial Council we will be able to demonstrate a strong sense of common purpose, meaning that we all feel to have an equal share in the Organisation, as well as equal obligations towards OSCE commitments. I am also convinced that the package of decisions we are about to adopt or endorse at this meeting open a possibility for further strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE in dealing with contemporary threats to security and stability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Croatia strongly supports the comprehensive OSCE concept of security and multidimensional approach, recognising the fundamental role of human dimension, including full respect for human rights and freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, with no less importance of two other dimensions of security: politico-military and economic and environmental.

As a multiethnic and multicultural country, Croatia actively supports all OSCE activities concerning tolerance and non-discrimination, and in this respect it is ready to host a seminar in 2006 on educational programmes fostering tolerance and non-discrimination, including the seminar on training programmes for law enforcement and judicial officials in combating hate crimes. Croatia is also participating in the newest Law Enforcement Officer Training Program for Combating Hate Crimes conducted by the OSCE/ODIHR, as one of the pioneer countries. We are proud to have become a member country of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, on 15 November 2005.

As a country in which the Programme of Education on Human Rights has been launched in pre-school institutions and is continuously carried out in elementary and high schools within the regular curricula, Croatia warmly welcomes the MC Decision on human rights education. In this regard, allow me to mention a commendable pilot-project initiated during this year by the Slovenian Chairmanship, offering a uniform material of *Our rights* for teaching children's rights throughout the OSCE area.

While remaining very concerned about trafficking in human beings in the OSCE Region, Croatia strongly supports continued and intensified efforts in the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to combat this modern form of slavery, affecting particularly women and children. Croatia is also implementing its own National Programme for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons in the period 2005-2008 and the Action Plan for the year 2005. Recently, the OSCE and the Croatian Government Office for Human Rights have jointly organised the International Conference to *Stop Trafficking in Human Beings*, held in Cavtat on October 18-20, with the participation of Dr Helga Konrad, Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

In the politico-military aspects of security, Croatia actively contributes to the work of the OSCE in arms control, confidence and security-building measures and non-proliferation, joining a number of initiatives: from the Open Sky Treaty, Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group and PSI to regional initiatives such as RACVIAC. Croatia will continue to host the RACVIAC and provide political, infrastructural, logistic and personnel support to the Centre.

Croatia is particularly active in preventing and countering WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) proliferation through its Chairmanship of CBSC/SEDM Working Group for Defence/Military Support to WMD Counter-proliferation, Border Security and Counter-terrorism. The parliamentary workshop on WMD non-proliferation which took place in Dubrovnik in August 2005 has grown into a new initiative, called "The Dubrovnik Dialogue", as a forum for discussions between the SEDM member parliamentarians on legislative aspect of CBSC.

The Sixth Meeting of the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held in Zagreb from 28 November to 2 December 2005, which represented a significant recognition to the Republic of Croatia for its overall endeavours towards de-mining activities on its own territory and within the region, confirmed Croatia as the regional leader in the de-mining process.

In border security and management, Croatia has fulfilled its obligations within the framework of the Ohrid Border Process, and has put its experts for border issues at the disposal of other countries in the Region. Within the CARDS Twinning Projects, the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management was developed, and the Action Plan for the Implementation of that Strategy completed.

Croatia strongly supports overall OSCE efforts to thwart terrorist threats in all their forms and manifestations, and has been very active in that field.

Croatia has become a party to all 12 key international conventions on the suppression of terrorism and has amended its national legislation according to these international obligations, while the 13<sup>th</sup> International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was signed by Croatian President Stjepan Mesić during the opening of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 14 September 2005.

In addition, Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism during the III Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw on 16 May 2005.

As an OSCE member, Croatia has fulfilled the obligations from the Bucharest Action Plan related to combating terrorism. In 2005 Croatia organised numerous international meetings and conferences on combating terrorism:

- International conference on *Building a Systematic Approach In The Fight Against Terrorism*, held under the auspices of the Croatian Parliament, Zagreb, 7-8 April 2005;
- Regional Workshop on *International Co-operation in Counter-terrorism, Corruption and the Fight against Transnational Organised Crime*, Zagreb, 7-10 March 2005;
- *Third World Congress on Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism*, Dubrovnik, 19-20 September, jointly organised by the Croatian Ministry of Defence and OPCW (Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons).

Within the framework of OSCE mechanisms and activities, as well as other regional and sub-regional organisations and initiatives, the Republic of Croatia actively co-operates with the neighbouring countries and the countries in the region on many issues of common interest (e.g. to combat trafficking in human beings, manage the borders and their security, in sub-regional arms control). We shall continue our policy of active involvement in SEE and promote further consolidation of stability in the region that has managed to greatly transform itself from a conflict zone into a zone of co-operation.

The success of the political process regarding the future of B-H is crucial in that regard. As a co-signatory to the Dayton Agreement, Croatia firmly supports the view that all three constituent peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina should enjoy equal rights on the entire territory of B-H.

As regards our bilateral co-operation with the neighbouring countries, I would like to particularly mention a positive dynamics in the relations with Serbia and Montenegro. In the wake of the last year's visit of Prime Minister Sanader to Belgrade, new dynamics was provided by the most recent visit of Serbian Prime Minister Koštunica to Zagreb, when refugees and missing persons were discussed, in addition to bilateral economic issues.

Along with bilateral co-operation, the Sarajevo Declaration also reflects Croatia's commitment to speed up and facilitate settling complex issues, such as the return of refugees, by utilising the regional co-operation framework.

Regarding the OSCE field operation, allow me to mention the excellent co-operation and an upward trend in the partnership between the OSCE Mission to Croatia and my country. This is best exemplified by the fact that the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia as well as many other officials, including myself, on different occasions in the last several months, visited the Mission's headquarters in

Zagreb and talked to its representatives about the ways to settle the remaining open issues passed down to us from earlier periods. We are happy that the Mission has already noted substantial progress in several chapters during its mandate, and we trust that the remaining open issues will be resolved during the next year, representing our joint success. We are also ready to convey the experience gained in this co-operation to other OSCE areas where they could be of use.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Slovenia and the Chairman-in-Office, my distinguished colleague Minister Dimitrij Rupel, personally, for the excellent job during the past year in leading our Organisation, despite a number of difficulties in their way.

Also, I would like to compliment our Belgian friends for their assuming the responsibility of chairing our Organisation in 2006. I wish them every success in taking the OSCE forward, and - in doing that – I assure them of our full support and assistance in tackling all obstacles and challenges that may arise before our Organisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.