

**Austrian Delegation**

ENGLISH only

**Annual Security Review Conference 2003**

**Working Group D (Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management)**

Speaking Notes (W. Ehrlich)

**A. On “Multidimensionality:**

Listening to the comprehensive introductory presentations my delegation missed two voices: : One from ODHIR and one from the Economic Co-ordinator .

Conflict prevention has not only political and military parameters - Human rights, democracy as well as economic aspects such as trafficking are known to be root causes of threats, tensions and conflicts .

I hope therefore that next year both Institutions will make their important contribution to conflict prevention – in the plenary as well as in all working groups of the ASRC

**B On “ OSCE Mechanisms”**

(Second topic for discussion suggested in the excellent perception paper of the coordinator)

My delegation proposed in PC.DEL 467/03 of 13 May in the GoF on the “Strategy” to create a new mechanism to cope with all threats.

As such a mechanism would have an important role in conflict prevention I would like to underline here a few points of this proposal:

**Some Reasons which speak for the creation of such a “Rapid Reaction Mechanism “ in the OSCE:**

**1. Need of flexibility:**

The OSCE “Strategy” contains inventories of threats and “tools” to handle them. But as ( “the unexpected is to be expected”) no inventory to can ever be complete!–

A mechanism is therefore needed to gives us the necessary flexibility to cope with future challenges analyse them :

(new threats, or old ones in disguise, in mutations or combinations)

and adopt actions “made to measure”

(combine or adapt our tools: With a set of hammers in our “toolbox” it would be difficult to fix a software problem).

## **2. Need of an instrument to Implement the “Strategy”:**

The OSCE “Strategy” containing guidelines for identifying and responding to threats can not be implemented by itself

A mechanism is therefore needed for its implementation: To perform the analysis of threats, come to conclusions, adopt measures and put them into practice.

## **3. Orchestration of the involvement of the OSCE Dimensions and Institutions:**

One of the outstanding qualities of the OSCE is its “multidimensionality” reflected in a panoply of Institutions such as the PC, the FSC, ODIHR, the economic Coordinator, the CPC, the ATU etc etc.

To make full use of this essential “added value” all relevant capacities of analysis, assessment, measures implementation should be implemented in a coordinated way

A mechanism is therefore needed to assure full input of all relevant OSCE Institutions in an optimal way for adequate and expedient responses to complex threats.

## **4. Co-operation with international organisations:**

Threats have increasingly international aspects, which require co-operation with other international organisations with more extended or complementary facilities than the OSCE

A mechanism is therefore required to assure, whenever appropriate, international coordination or co-operation.

## **Considerations on the functioning of such a mechanism:**

### **5. Light ad hoc structure:**

The idea is not to create a new permanent bureaucracy in the Secretariat but a **set of procedures** indicating the order of procedures to be followed in case of an emerging threat scenario. (Something similar to the structure of the “Berlin” or “Moscow”- Mechanisms)

### **6. Making full use of existing OSCE facilities**

No new institutions or a new chain of command should be established but best use should be made of all existing institutions of the OSCE relevant for the case without changing the respective mandates or competences.

(Using the expertise of the institutions such as the Secretariat, the FSC., ODIHR, the Econ. Coordinator, the HRNM etc. etc. the Security Dialogue of the FSC as well as the political means at the disposal of the PC and the CIO

## **7. Making full use of international co-operation**

This co-operation should be used on a technical level by the OSCE institutions as well as on the political level by the CIO and the PC

## **4. Make a mechanism applicable for all threats**

The mechanism should serve to handle all categories of kinds of threats. Those already identified in the “Strategy” and new or mutating ones.

## **8. Cover all relevant aspects**

**The Mechanism should cover all the relevant functions, such as:**

- Early warning
- Threat analysis and assessment (causes, targets, magnitudes , imminence etc.
- Coordination of contributions of different OSCE Institutions
- decision making
- implementation
- coordination of national contributions in personnel and in kind available on short notice for implementation of respective decisions of the OSCE.  
(Some additions to the “react –Mechanism should be considered to cope with eventual more substantive actions – up to peace keeping elements.)

## **9. Give priority to prevention**

Like in medicine prevention is by far the most effective and cheapest way of handling emerging threats, which will put a stronger accent on the analysis and elimination of causes and root causes to prevent emerging threats to become effective or to evolve into conflicts.

## **10. Minimal organisational requirements:**

The Mechanism should become operational on an ad hoc basis and provide for a central co-ordination point for practical and technical questions (point of contact) but also for monitoring of the ongoing procedure in order to counter eventual snags..

To minimise the administrative effort necessary this organisational function could be played by the respective “lead-institution” (“Pol-Mil”: CPC, humanitarian: ODIHR etc.) -depending on the nature of the threat.

### **Further Consideration: A “unified” Rapid Reaction Mechanism”**

As we are suggesting a new mechanism some thought should be given to the fact that there are already quite a number of specialised “Mechanisms” in place , such as the Berlin mechanism”, the Moscow Mechanism or the La Valetta Mechanism.

As proliferation of mechanisms seems not to be the right way I would suggest to examine the possibility to unify those special mechanisms in the new “Rapid Reaction Mechanism”.

This would not only streamline our structures but would also be a – necessary and practical -element in our “Strategy” which at the same time could win thereby a credible “strategic” dimension by creating a unified and effective tool to respond to all threats in the XXI century.