

**2008 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**VIENNA, 1-2 JULY 2008**

**SPEAKING NOTES**

**Session II: The present state of arms control arrangements, CSBMs and the security dialogue in the OSCE area:**

- The politico-military dimension, with its traditional mandate of negotiating arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures, constitutes an indispensable component of the OSCE's multidimensional and comprehensive approach to security. As we should continue to build upon what we have collectively achieved within the framework of the First Dimension, we should equally continue to devote attention to the effective implementation of the agreed commitments as this is imperative for the credibility of our work present and future. Because, unfulfilled commitments and non-compliance could lead to political atrophy and eventual acquiescence to a downgrading of the work by the First Dimension. For us the products of the said Dimension are too valuable to meet with this fate.

- There are several indicators evident in the current make up of international politics, especially in regard to those matters that are of close concern to strategic relations in the Transatlantic and Eurasian area, which foretell that in the period ahead the politico-military dimension of the OSCE could carry potentially heavier weight than before, with a heightened profile.

- The OSCE is the competent and the authoritative forum to consolidate European security as well as to further advance its underlying goals and principles. In light of this, our dialogue both within the framework of the OSCE and in other foras should prepare and provide the ground conducive to fully utilize this valuable potential.

- With respect to the CFE, our appraisal of the matter was elaborated at the highest political level during the NATO-Russia Council meeting held at the Bucharest Summit, and the core elements of our position have been reflected in the NAC Statement of 28 March. Therefore I suffice to say that we intend to preserve the CFE Treaty, including its flank regime; to this

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effect we call upon all parties to double their efforts to put the Adapted Treaty into force; entry into force of the Adapted Treaty is not the final phase for the CFE negotiations, on the contrary, it will allow us to engage in an exercise during which all provisions of the Treaty can be invoked to be reviewed. Let me also emphasize that we will continue our constructive dialogue with all our Treaty partners including at bilateral level. The records of the CFE history can only prove that we have never been insensitive to the legitimate security concerns of our Treaty partners, and we expect them to reciprocate us in the same manner.

- We find this Conference opportune to underline our perception on the relevance of the CFE regime to the prevailing security environment in the Euro-Atlantic area. Following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the Treaty, including its flank regime, ceased to operate as a tool to provide a bloc-to-bloc military balance. Since then it has evolved into an instrument to ensure regional and sub-regional stability.

- Although the continued implementation of the suspension decision by the Russian Federation undermines our common premise to consolidate European security, it is neither in our interest nor it is in our intention to allow it to taint our work in other spheres of arms control and disarmament. The proposals to improve the implementation of the 1999 Vienna Document as well as additional CSBMs are being subject to thorough examination by the Turkish authorities within their own merits. We will continue to share our views in this regard with the rest of our partners.

- The CFE Treaty, Vienna Document 1999 and the Open Skies Treaty mutually reinforce and complement each other. However, we should bear in mind that the legally binding provisions of the CFE Treaty cannot be replaced with politically binding commitments, nor can their loss be compensated through reinforcing other instruments such as Vienna Document 1999.