



Republic of Hungary

Check against delivery!

Statement by Mr. Gergely Pröhle,
Deputy State Secretary, MFA of Hungary

at the 18th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
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Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset let me express my gratitude to Lithuania for the generous hospitality, as well as for all the work the country has done at the helm of the OSCE this year.

Hungary fully subscribes to the statement delivered by Helga Schmid on behalf of the European Union. At the same time I would like to share some thoughts on certain issues Hungary attaches particular importance to.

Mr. Chairperson,

One year after the OSCE Summit in Astana, the Vilnius Ministerial Council provides the first opportunity to assess the progress we have achieved in turning the dialogue on European Security into tangible results. We hope that the Ministerial Council would be able to adopt a package of concrete measures covering a number of fields in all three dimensions that will bring these objectives closer. Let me state clearly that in our view much more needs to be done to fulfil the lofty objectives we have set out in Astana.

First of all determined efforts are needed to move towards the resolution of the protracted conflicts. In this context we welcome the resumption of the official 5+2 negotiations on the conflict in Moldova last week. It is important not to lose the positive momentum achieved. Our efforts should also be intensified concerning the conflict in Georgia, and in Nagorno-Karabakh. We should also improve our common capacities to deal with existing and emerging conflicts in a comprehensive way. Adopting a decision on the OSCE's capabilities in this field is therefore a priority for Hungary at the Ministerial Council.

The OSCE should continue to promote the dialogue, confidence and co-operation in order to protect the rights of national minorities. National minorities can serve as bridges and improve understanding between participating states, however violations of minority rights and a failure to reach accommodation between majority and minority can be a source of tension and even conflicts. Nevertheless, in our opinion national minorities living in Central Europe are stabilizing factors and play an important role in maintaining good neighbourly

relations. Hungary therefore attaches particular importance to the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

One year ago in Astana the Heads of State or Government of the participating States have reiterated their commitment to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms as our first responsibility.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are closely linked to tolerance and non-discrimination. A particularly vulnerable group that faces manifestations of intolerance and discrimination throughout the OSCE area are the Roma and Sinti. Addressing the problems Roma people are facing has been a longstanding priority for Hungary and was a priority issue for the Hungarian EU Presidency in 2011. Earlier this year EU member states managed to set out an 'EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies', which aims to make a tangible difference to Roma people's lives. Hungary is strongly committed to the implementation of this framework strategy also through the preparation and implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy, which has been adopted by the Hungarian Government on the 30th November 2011, as well as all relevant OSCE commitments, including the 2003 Action Plan on improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area. All OSCE participating States should continue to devote the necessary political attention and determined efforts to this issue.

An effective arms control regime remains an essential element of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. Hungary therefore remains open to resuming negotiations to overcome the decade long impasse and restore the viability of the conventional arms control regime in Europe. Discussions should also continue in the framework of the OSCE to increase military transparency. We should also strengthen our common efforts to tackle new challenges, such as cyber security. Hungary is the place of birth of the European Convention on Cybercrime, the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, which has just celebrated its 10th anniversary in Strasbourg. This particular circumstance commits us to remain active in this field. We offered to organize the second international cyber security conference, a follow-up to the event held earlier this year in London.

The OSCE should enhance its contribution to efforts aimed at improving stability and security in Afghanistan as the international community transfers control to the local authorities.

One of the most important assets that the Organisation has is the network of its field missions. They assist the host countries in promoting stability, democracy and the rule of law. A particular area where the OSCE has successfully contributed to democratic transformation processes is South-East Europe. We can observe a number of positive trends in the region and in the case of Croatia we can now close a chapter of the OSCE's work in a successful manner and wind down OSCE presence in the country, as all the requirements have been met in the mandate related areas.

Mr. Chairperson,

The values that serve as the common foundation for the OSCE are universal. The Arab spring has shown the validity of the OSCE's approach and that human rights and fundamental freedoms are really at the core of our comprehensive approach to security. In this light I am convinced that the OSCE can make a valuable contribution, if requested, to

the democratic transformation processes of the countries of North-Africa. Hungary, together with other Central – and Eastern European states offers its specific experience accumulated throughout its political transition process. This is also witnessed by the fact that Hungarian NGOs with considerable knowledge on transition contributed to the OSCE Mediterranean Partner Countries Civil Society Conference the days before. I would like to thank the Chairmanship for its determined efforts in order to ensure that this issue remains high on the agenda of the OSCE and that of today's Ministerial Council.

In conclusion let me offer our full support to the incoming Irish Chairmanship and wish them every success. We are convinced that the helm of the organization will be in good hands next year.