



*Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations, OSCE and other
International Organizations
in Vienna*

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR IVAN POČUCH, HEAD OF THE
DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
AT THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
WORKING SESSION II**

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Mr. Chairman,

The security dialogue among the OSCE Participating States has been noticeably changing in the recent months both in its content and spirit. It is not my intention to analyze why it has been so and why the extension of the zone of stability and democracy through a NATO open door policy is perceived by some as a sort of threat and even paralyzing the OSCE and the CFE Treaty as we heard previously during this conference, but irrespectively whether we agree with this notion or not, one of the direct consequences of the more complicated security dialogue is that the basic principles of collective security cooperation, including conventional arms control arrangements and CSBM's measures have regrettably suffered tangible setbacks.

Nowhere else is this collateral damage better seen than in the situation surrounding the CFE Treaty whose virtues, importance and security benefits for all of us can never be extolled enough. The so called "suspension" of the Treaty by one of the signatories is, in our opinion, not only unfounded in the legal sense and contradictory to the spirit of the Treaty, but bears a huge potential of being the catalyst of the weakening of the European security *per se*. We do share the concerns expressed here by many of CFE's progressive erosion if the current impasse is not resolved any time soon.

We have, together with other NATO Allies, during last year acted to alleviate the concerns expressed by the suspending State Party to salvage this centerpiece of conventional arms control. It resulted in an offer to move together under the so called Parallel Action Package - if it had been responded affirmatively, we would have obviated the tendency to look grimly at the prospectives of the current era arms control. The withdrawal of suspension and a positive response to Parallel Action Package - literally what we need to hear is the biblical yes - yes - is a big key both to reinvigorating the stalled arms control area and equally to resolving protracted conflicts. Who would not like to kill two birds with one stone? When there is a will there is a way. However, it

would be self-deception to believe that any shortcut or bypass would lead to the objective desired and long-awaited. Only then – after the entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty – can we start addressing other issues indicated by the suspending State Party.

The Czech Republic considers the CSBMs adopted within the OSCE over years fully relevant. For that reason we prefer the thorough implementation of the existing CSBMs to creating new measures and opening the existing texts.

The application in practice of the Vienna Document 1999, specifically of the Chapter III of this document, while dealing with the April 2008 incident on the Georgian territory, is one of the specific examples of the relevance of the current set of confidence and security building measures. Overall, the Vienna Document 1999 proved to be a viable and rather efficient instrument in strengthening the dialogue among the participating states.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.