



Permanent Mission of Finland
Vienna

PC.DEL/799/03
3 July 2003

25 June 2003

ENGLISH only

**Speaking points of the Finnish Delegation for the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
Working Group B**

Mr Co-ordinator, I would like to take the floor today to address some issues pertinent to the discussion we have heard so far and to share some ideas we have developed in order to provide practical assistance and expertise. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Mazi for providing us with such a useful perception paper and giving us guidelines for our discussions today. We also warmly welcome the thought-provoking keynote speeches of Director Grushko and Brigadier General Dr. Vetschera.

We believe that one of the essential benefits during this Annual Security Review Conference is the possibility to address issues which traditionally fall under the topic of arms control and disarmament – but are more and more identified as cross-cutting issues which require the attention of various actors beyond the traditional categorical thinking. To name a few, I mean issues such as trafficking, border management, policing and terrorism. All these issues have also their relevance to our work in the politico-military dimension. And we are happy to note that for example countering small arms proliferation is addressed at the same time with for example policing or border management – and not in isolation from these.

In addition we welcome the Franco-Dutch initiative on ammunition destruction and have noted the various follow-up proposals coming from the recent workshop. We need to ensure that these proposals are put into practice and this important issue is adequately reflected in Maastricht Ministerial.

Over the past year there has been an increasing need to develop practical projects, which can be conducted jointly with the OSCE participating States and our field operations. Our Ministers also took note of this situation last December during the Ministerial meeting in Porto and placed specific emphasis on two regions, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The result was allocation of substantive financial resources to these regions.

Another issue I would like to touch upon in this respect is the efforts we have taken to launch section V on

Small Arms and Light Weapons. Finland has supported operationalization of Section V. We considered the decision by the FSC and the PC on this issue to be a great step forward in making the best possible use of the OSCE field operations in our common efforts to counter proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

As you all know, there has been no requests so far put forth in the context of Section V. We are all very familiar with the sensitivities related to this. However, Finland would like to take this opportunity to encourage all participating States to look for ways to go beyond those sensitivities, and identify concrete projects to launch Section V and make the political efforts we have undertaken here in Vienna a reality on the ground, which is in fact what Section V aims to do.

In this respect, we would like you to know that we stand ready to continue working on this. We stand ready to offer assistance and our experiences to those who requested it.

In particular, we have considered two areas where we have expertise to share. These are export control issues and stockpile management and security training. As you know Finland produced the best practice guide on export control, and we look forward to making the guide more familiar to others. For example, should a State request training on export control issues, we will do our best to facilitate that request.

On stockpile management and security we have already established a good working relationship with other participating States, particularly Switzerland and look forward to implementing our initiatives. We are willing to sit down together with other States and formulate these proposals to best suit the requests and the needs in the OSCE region.

Finally Mr. Co-ordinator, I thank the German delegation for giving us an update on the Best Practice Guides. The important task ahead now is to make those guides known in practice outside Vienna so that the result is not only an academic exercise between delegations but a real value added tool for the relevant officials. We would like to offer our support for the efforts promoting awareness of these guides. In particular we would like to thank the CPC for their work in co-ordinating this exercise and to encourage the CPC to continue making these guides a valuable tool in practice, for example through training and awareness raising.

Thank you Mr Co-ordinator