



# **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Secretary General Lamberto Zannier**

## **Report to the Ministerial Council**

**Kiev**

**5 December 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality to all of us here today. I would also like to express my appreciation to your dedicated teams in Vienna and Kiev led by Ambassador Prokopchuk and Mr. Yatsiuk for their hard work and excellent co-operation with the executive structures. Mr. Chairman, here in Ukraine, as in all our participating States, the OSCE remains devoted to encouraging governments to uphold their OSCE commitments, including protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for the rule of law. I welcome your statement yesterday on the Government of Ukraine's continued commitment to these central principles of democracy.

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Less than two years from now, the OSCE will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a historic triumph of co-operation over conflict. The Helsinki Final Act set out the founding vision for a community of states united by the then-revolutionary concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security.

Today the Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic political and security context is dramatically different, but the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security is more relevant than ever. While some old challenges persist, new ones are emerging that are increasingly complex, cross-dimensional and transnational. Unresolved conflicts and instability in our larger neighbourhood have a growing impact on security in the OSCE region. To confront these complicated challenges effectively, we need to work together.

But today the unity of purpose of the OSCE is being tested. The risk of a reemergence of divisions and mistrust may undermine security in our region. These trends are impacting

the effectiveness of our Organization, sometimes making it difficult to reach agreement even on minor issues.

I am convinced that the OSCE has the potential to find ways to bridge differences and serve the interests of all participating States. By providing a forum for dialogue and debate where every participating State is entitled to argue its position, the OSCE offers the possibility of finding common ground and taking joint action on the basis of shared commitments and values.

Dear Ministers,

A year ago in Dublin, you agreed to initiate the Helsinki +40 process to reaffirm your commitment to comprehensive security and more clearly outline the OSCE agenda for the future.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship has successfully launched this informal process in close co-operation with the incoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships. I welcome agreement here in Kiev on the Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki +40 Process.

Although reform is not the primary goal of the Helsinki +40 process, it is clear that we need to modernize and streamline our working procedures and structures to better meet the challenges of our time. This should in no way weaken existing commitments; instead, it should strengthen their implementation and complement them with new tools.

The OSCE should celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act with greater unity of purpose, an agenda that addresses the critical security challenges facing our region today, and a realistic workplan supported by adequate resources.

But we should not necessarily view 2015 as the endpoint of the process. Instead, we should consider it as a way-station in a longer-term process toward overcoming our differences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As challenges on the perimeters of our region grow, we are developing a more strategic approach to our larger neighbourhood and strengthening relationships with our Partners for Co-operation in Asia and the Mediterranean.

Looking at our Asian neighbourhood, security remains precarious in Afghanistan as it prepares for presidential elections and the withdrawal of ISAF forces next year. There is a high risk of spill-over of security threats into neighbouring Central Asian countries. As the international community devises the strategic vision for Afghanistan after 2014, the OSCE remains a good platform for practical, forward-looking regional co-operation and dialogue among all stakeholders, providing targeted support in key areas to promote regional security, stability and economic development. Our field presences, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe are building local capacities and expert networks linking Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. With a stable source of funding, the College could make full use of its potential and develop into a fully-fledged institution devoted to tackling transnational threats in the region.

In the Southern Mediterranean, we are watching security developments with growing concern. We have made our toolkit available to our Partners in this region and we have

developed practical co-operation with them in many areas. Earlier this year Libya applied to become a Partner. Clearly the OSCE continues to offer an appealing model for co-operation.

Dear Ministers,

As we discuss the way forward, let me briefly highlight some success stories.

Just this week the OSCE played a crucial role in facilitating voting in the second round of municipal elections in northern Kosovo, marking a significant step forward toward building stability and trust in the region. In Kosovo, the OSCE works in close co-ordination with the local authorities and our long-term partners on the ground, the UN, EULEX and KFOR, and our efforts are respected and appreciated by all communities.

Here in Ukraine, we are about to conclude the largest-ever OSCE project, the removal and reprocessing of highly toxic Soviet-era rocket fuel known as melange. With support from the Government of Ukraine, partners in Russia and 10 donor countries, this hazardous substance is being converted into chemical products for civilian use.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Environmental Security Initiative, a dynamic partnership of six organizations co-founded by the OSCE here in Kiev in 2003. Years of vigorous efforts within this framework resulted, among other achievements, in Moldova and Ukraine signing the Dniester River Basin Treaty last year, setting a successful example of transboundary water co-operation for the rest of the OSCE region.

As terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in illicit drugs and human beings pose a growing danger to our region, the OSCE has also significantly strengthened its capacity to combat these transnational threats this year. I welcome the recent adoption of an initial set of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and the work to extend the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings to meet current and emerging threats from traffickers.

Then of course there is the important work of our Institutions. This year we have seen closer co-operation and greater unity of purpose in promoting OSCE values, principles and commitments among the Institutions, the Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly under the able leadership of President Krivokapic.

Dear Ministers,

Although we have had successes this year, serious challenges persist. Progress in the protracted conflicts largely remains elusive. The Secretariat and field offices supported the Ukrainian Chairmanship's efforts to re-energize the negotiating formats and explore other avenues that could lead toward resolution. We have seen results but this is not enough. We will continue to support initiatives to find mutually acceptable and sustainable solutions – though I should point out that we are best able to do so when there is an OSCE presence on the ground.

OSCE field operations assist participating States to implement their OSCE commitments. They are an important partner for host countries, helping to build stability and security in our region. Their work has a real impact on people's lives.

But perhaps it is time to take a fresh look at our model for field operations, which has its roots in the transitions of the 1990s. Since then, both the needs and circumstances of host countries have changed. A new generation of field operations could provide practical

assistance tailored to the specific needs of host countries and serve as platforms to inform the public about OSCE values, principles and commitments. We might consider this new field office model in responding to Mongolia's request to host a field operation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Because so much of what the OSCE does is devoted to conflict prevention, often our achievements do not receive the attention and credit they deserve in capitals and among the broader public. This makes it more difficult to secure the support needed to fulfil our mandates and sustain our efforts to increase security and stability in the OSCE region.

We are making efforts to increase the Organization's visibility by harnessing the tools of the Internet, including social media, to reach broader audiences. Fostering engagement with civil society, the academic community and youth is one of my personal priorities.

I'm pleased to report that the "Security Days" initiative launched last year has quickly become a dynamic forum for free-flowing debate on contemporary security challenges facing the OSCE. Security Days offer a cost-effective platform for intensive engagement with top experts from civil society and academia who introduce fresh perspectives into the OSCE debate. I am grateful for your generous support for Security Days and I would welcome your contributions to future events.

Next year I am planning Security Days devoted to political-military issues, good governance, promoting interfaith dialogue, and the relationship between water and security. The main Security Days event will focus on identifying ways to encourage greater operational co-operation between regional organizations and the United Nations, as well as among regional organizations themselves. This would help us to confront transnational, cross-dimensional and global threats more effectively and to prevent emerging crises from spreading regionally and globally.

This year also saw the establishment of the OSCE Academic Network, which provides expertise and independent perspectives to our on-going security dialogue. I encourage interested institutions from all participating States to join the Network.

Dear Ministers,

I think we all agree that preventing conflict is a good investment. The OSCE is far less expensive than other international organizations, so the return on your investment is high.

But to do our work well, we need sufficient resources. We understand that financial belt-tightening is happening everywhere, and that many of our participating States are facing serious economic challenges. For 2014, I have proposed a budget that takes into account current financial constraints. I have also been making every effort to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat, including cutting costs wherever I can. But we have reached the point where further cuts will undermine our ability to carry out our mandate.

Human resources are also critical to the OSCE's success. To attract and retain staff of the highest quality, we must remain competitive. I would like to thank participating States for contributing seconded personnel, who are especially important to our work in the field.

In closing, I would like to express my support also for the incoming Swiss Chairmanship, which is already hard at work planning for 2014 in close co-ordination with the 2015 Serbian Chairmanship. And to all our participating States, allow me to reconfirm the

commitment of the highly professional Secretariat staff, as well as my own personal commitment, to assist you in implementing your decisions and to support your efforts to find common solutions to shared challenges.

Thank you, and I wish you productive deliberations.