

**TURKISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
(Vienna, 25-26 June 2003)**

WORKING GROUP

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Role of the OSCE in Peacekeeping Operations

Decision No. III adopted at the 1992 Helsinki Summit provides a solid basis for establishment of concrete mechanisms for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management, including peacekeeping missions. It is this decision whereby the OSCE declared its political will to launch peacekeeping operations that may involve civilian or military personnel. However, this mechanism has never been put into practice; nor does the Helsinki mandate clarify the details regarding organizational and administrative aspects of a peacekeeping operation. We hope that the ongoing discussions at the informal Group of Friends of the Chair will yield fruitful results in the sense that, at the end of this process, we will have a solid mechanism at our disposal to make use of when the necessity arises.

In other words, in case the OSCE is willing to launch an armed peacekeeping operation in the face of a particular crisis situation, planning and deployment should take place rapidly. The specific OSCE bodies, institutions or organs that will have a role throughout the process should be known *a priori*. This understanding leads us to the necessity to prepare a generic concept. Such a generic concept, naturally, will not prejudice the OSCE decision at the political level to get involved in a specific conflict nor the specific mandate of each peacekeeping mission. Each conflict is *sui generis* and the decision pertaining to the mission and its mandate should be adopted on a case-by-case basis.

We believe that an update of the 1992 Helsinki mandate would be the desired outcome at the end of a generic concept debate. This document should reflect the current structural/institutional facts about our organization; it should also provide a clearer guidance on how to make best use of our bodies and institutions.

FIRST ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

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SPEAKING NOTES FOR WORKING GROUP D
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- Conflict prevention and crisis management lies at the core of all OSCE documents and instruments. Everything the OSCE does is targetted at conflict prevention and crisis management.
- Yet early warning is also an integral part of conflict prevention and crisis management to which much less time is devoted and the little time devoted seldom leads to action. This is not due to a lack of early warning signals but rather as a result of the laborious decision making process at the OSCE, whereby before the first bullet is fired or chaos ensues consensus is difficult to achieve.
- As a result, regional issues, as long as the status-quo prevails, or in other words as long as they remain “frozen”, are not addressed in a resolute fashion.
- This state of affairs weakens the OSCE’s position in the international community as a security organisation whose mandate transcends into action rather than just words.
- The OSCE’s conflict prevention and crisis management priorities should not be dictated by the perception of how close potential conflicts or crisis are to west Europe. While the Balkans have been at the forefront of the OSCE’s conflict prevention, crisis management – but most notably post conflict rehabilitation – activities, the Caucasus have been relegated to a secondary role. A more equitable dispersion of OSCE activities across the OSCE space is necessary.
- As has been pointed out by one of the “Keynote Speakers”, closer interaction between security institutions with different capabilities in a complementary fashion is an important element for effective conflict prevention since conflict prevention without both “sticks” as well as “carrots” is doomed to be ineffective.

- Recent efforts at the OSCE to develop peace-keeping capacity should not be seen only in the light of post conflict rehabilitation. Together with police elements and unarmed observers, the OSCE's peace-keeping activities can continue to play an important role in conflict prevention and crisis management .
- While arms control measures and the OSCE's acquis in the politico-military domain continue to play an important role in conflict prevention at a State to State level, however the changing nature of threats, risks and challenges to security necessitate the introduction of new commitments and measures which will address new challenges such as intra-state conflicts and tensions. Effective adoption and implementation of such measures will demonstrate the OSCE's ability to adapt to the new security environment and remain a viable and effective player in European security.