

MC.DEL/49/08
5 December 2008

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FAUSTA SIMONA MORGANTI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SAN MARINO TO THE OSCE AT THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Helsinki, 4 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Antonella Mularoni, who was appointed yesterday by the Grand and General Council following the political elections of 9 November, and of the delegation of San Marino, I should like to thank the Finnish authorities for their warm welcome and the Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Secretariat for the organization of this 16th Ministerial Council.

As pointed out by the President of Finland, Mr. Tarja Halonen, whom we thank for his statement at this conference, Helsinki may be regarded today as a pillar of comprehensive security.

The strengthening of our democracies through the profitable exchange of experience and open discussion of concerns and the dynamics of growth provide every one of our States, from the largest to the smallest, with the instruments to make decisive choices with respect to the development of co-operation in the three OSCE dimensions, namely security, human rights and sustainable development.

Anyone who prefers unilateral decisions to the use of political mediation and patient work on the basis of understandings and respect for negotiated rules is disowning a rich heritage of *acquis* that has safeguarded our shared historical and cultural identity and has demonstrated its importance for peaceful coexistence.

On the basis of this profound conviction, we can only hope for a normalization of the relations between peoples and a diplomatic solution to the unresolved conflict situations. San Marino joins the President of the European Union in calling for the continued strengthening of the OSCE's role as an irreplaceable forum for discussion on security, the fight against terrorism and all of the factors that sustain it.

We attach great importance to the co-ordination between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, the European Union and its other partners, which we regard as an indispensable complement to the activities carried out in relation to security and its human and economic dimensions.

We should like to highlight the fundamental contribution made by the parliaments to the work of our Organization to guarantee the widest and most considerate participation in the construction of common platforms even with countries that are not part of the European geographical region and with which solid and durable relations are sought.

We highly appreciate the work of the OSCE election monitoring missions as a means of providing information about mechanisms that help to consolidate democracy and establish the rule of law.

We believe that the attention paid to the first dimension and its consolidation plays an important role in safeguarding the continuity of the OSCE.

We agree with the need to give the OSCE a legal personality, which should be based on substantive criteria, and support the proposal made by the Chairmanship.

The serious global financial crisis has changed the role of politics and in that context the image of a dynamic, flexible Europe with a liberal and innovative market. The search for common values with regard to power based on counter-powers, to the responsible utilization of resources and to the reassertion of the importance of encouraging and applying human rights principles is at the basis of dialogue in the various sectors of the OSCE. In this regard, we appreciate the stimulus and work of the Secretary General and would like to reiterate our esteem for his intelligent and specific contribution to our discussions.

The exchange of information on problems such as migration, minorities, trafficking in human beings, violence against women and combating arms proliferation enables participating States to make a specific contribution. San Marino carried out considerable work on some of these issues during its chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and launched initiatives on the subject of intercultural and interreligious dialogue promoting values and concepts aimed at a far-reaching understanding and recognition of diversity as contributing elements to the richness of mankind, the quality of communal life and the cultural, social and economic development of peoples.

Europe and our Organization in particular can play a central role in reconciling the diverse political views that form part of the same economic system.

It is a question of emphasizing that States and nations, while fully exercising their sovereignty, should realize what they have in common so as to ensure that the direction embarked upon 33 years ago is continued. The Finnish Chairmanship has been committed to this course during the past months, which have not been easy for our Organization, and we are confident that the incoming Greek Chairmanship will also take up this commitment. We support initiatives that help strengthen relations between States and give continuity to the decisions taken in Madrid, which will be confirmed here in Helsinki. We hope that the Final Declaration bearing witness to our gathering here in Helsinki will live up to our expectations. San Marino has contributed with a specific initiative designed to heighten awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has also provided financial support for its translation into more languages. In this way we pay homage to an event of outstanding importance in the continuation of dialogue between cultures and peoples.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.