

FSC-PC.DEL/9/10
11 March 2010

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HEINER HORSTEN
AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 March 2010

On behalf of the German delegation, I should like to thank the two co-chairpersons of our meeting today for giving us a new opportunity to discuss and take further the topic of conflict prevention and resolution within the framework of a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Conflict prevention and conflict resolution are not only core themes of the Corfu Process: these two concepts are high on the OSCE's agenda, and rightly so. It is therefore only logical that we dedicated the first thematic meeting in the framework of the Corfu Process, which took place on 23 February, to this topic. We should like to take this opportunity to specially thank the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Corfu co-ordinator, Ambassador Molnar, who very ably and firmly guided our deliberations. They continue to have our full support. The many substantial contributions to the debates at that meeting testify to the great interest that all OSCE participating States bring to this area.

In his introductory statement today, Ambassador Herbert Salber presented to us a number of ongoing and new considerations. For that I should like to express my gratitude to him. Anyone who thought that, on the topic of conflict prevention, everything essential had already been said would have learned better today. His remarkable presentation gave us new and important ideas, and he showed us dimensions of the topic that we should take with us and deepen in our further deliberations.

Earlier today, the Spanish Ambassador presented the European Union's statement on our topic, and she spoke also on behalf of Germany. In what follows, therefore, I should like to express only a few thoughts on the question of how we might make further progress in our discussions in this segment of the Corfu Process. The Chairmanship's summary that was circulated at the end of last week is helpful in this respect; it reflects the numerous ideas and proposals that will be the subject of our further deliberations.

Of course, we must bear in mind that the Corfu Process – and this also applies to the topic of conflict prevention – is an open process, during which new or expanded proposals might be exchanged that should also be included in the deliberations.

For the time being, however, we might devote ourselves to the proposals that are already on the table in the form of food-for-thought papers (FFTs). It is in the nature of things that these FFTs only roughly outline a few measures that are the subject of widely varying

fields of action. It is therefore to be expected that each of these FFTs will raise at least a few questions among many delegations, questions that should be clarified before we take the next step.

We should therefore use the next few weeks and months until the interim report is issued to press for clarification of these questions and to strive for the widest possible common understanding of each of the existing proposals and its individual components. Only on the basis of such a common understanding do later negotiations on the individual proposals have any chance of success, in our view. If Ambassador Molnar were to be entrusted with co-ordinating informal consultations open to all participating States, in which the sponsors of the individual proposals could introduce and discuss them, we would welcome that development.

In the view of the German delegation, which introduced one of the existing proposals, this phase might also serve to further refine the proposals and possibly also to generate new ideas or further elaborate on existing ones, for example, within the framework of a seminar, as was already suggested in connection with the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. We should also like to stress, however, that in this “exploratory” phase, all proposals should remain on the table and ultimately be included in the interim report that our ministers requested in Athens at the end of last year.

In our view, this approach should also be applied to the other topics we will be discussing in the next few weeks in the framework of the Corfu Process.

In closing, permit me to make the following remark: the goal of our activities in the weeks ahead – on this we are all agreed – will be the interim report to be issued in June. How this report should be structured, so that it can serve as a basis for the necessary decisions on furthering the Corfu Process, is what we should also strive to reach a common understanding on in the next few weeks.

The German delegation and I personally, as co-ordinator for the topic “Transnational threats”, will do our utmost to support the Chairmanship in its responsible task of steering the Corfu Process.