



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretary General

Vienna, 19 October 2006

**Welcoming Remarks by
OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
For the Expert Workshop on Preventing Terrorism:
Fighting Incitement and Related Terrorist Activities**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop is an example of the OSCE at its best. Organized with the Council of Europe, the Workshop brings together experts from counter-terrorist agencies across a wide range of participating States, along with officials from the EU, the European Court of Human Rights, and the CIS. I am happy also to welcome some of the best academic experts on the subject to our deliberations. This workshop benefits greatly from the multifaceted support of Russia and Germany.

This Workshop shows the importance of the OSCE for the crafting of networks across the OSCE area, composed of relevant actors from pS and regional organizations, to address one of the most troubling questions of our times – the struggle to prevent terrorism, to fight the incitement to terrorist acts. The sheer importance of answering such a complex question places a premium on **co-ordination** and **innovation** – *co-ordination*, between pS, regional organizations, specialized agencies and academic experts; and *innovation* in our thinking and our discussions.

The OSCE has an important role to play. The fight against terrorism involves the three dimensions of the OSCE and its structure as a whole, including the ODIHR and Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities.

The basis for OSCE counter-terrorism work remains the regional implementation of the UN framework of resolutions and international instruments against terrorism, as well as an OSCE-specific set of political commitments and action plans.

In so doing, the OSCE has established a wide operational framework of decisions and counter-terrorist programmes in such strategic areas as legal co-operation, border security, human rights, financing of terrorism, and the ratification and implementation of Universal Anti-terrorist Instruments.

The Action against Terrorism Unit is the central platform for facilitating capacity building and coordination with international stakeholders in the field of counter-terrorism. It also acts as a source for disseminating best practice and lessons learned.

Since its creation, the ATU has developed programmes that have been widely appreciated by both participating States and specialized international organizations and agencies, whose work the OSCE has supported.

The contents of these programs are present in the framework of this meeting. The ATU:

- a) Assists in the ratification and legislative implementation of the Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments and acts to enhance international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism. Both of these are carried out in close co-operation with UNODC.
- b) Works to enhance travel document security in co-operation with ICAO and Interpol, as well as OSCE action to improve the security of container shipments in co-operation with the World Customs Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organization;
- c) Assists participating States in addressing current and emerging terrorist threats; namely the threat of MANPADS to civil aviation, suicide

terrorism, terrorist attacks against mass urban transport and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

As a niche player, the OSCE is innovative and acts as a key part of a network.

Today's event is a continuation of this work. The fact that it is jointly organized with the Council of Europe is vitally important. This is an example of how to reinforce synergies between regional organizations and how to strengthen the dissemination of standards and good practices to fight the incitement and recruitment of terrorists.

We look forward to your contributions, and I thank you all for coming here today.