



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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ENGLISH only

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OSCE Annual Security Review Conference

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Opening Session

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**Statement by Cristian Istrate,
Director General for Strategic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
ROMANIA**

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Participants,
Dear Colleagues,**

In addition to the EU statement, to which we fully subscribe, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

My delegation welcomes the participation of EEAS Deputy Secretary General, **Helga Schmidt**, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, **Alexander Grushko**, and US Deputy Assistant Secretary, **Eric Rubin**, and the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ambassador **Bülent Meriç** at the 2012 ASRC. We thank them and Secretary General **Lamberto Zannier** for their presentations.

I would also like to commend the initiative of the OSCE Secretary General to organize in **premiere this year the OSCE Security Days**, where valuable ideas were expressed by the civil society about the challenges we face in building the **Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, while approaching the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.**

The OSCE **concept of comprehensive security** remains the foundation of all our endeavours for the creation of a security community. The path to the security community needs to be underpinned by respect for the OSCE values and principles, **enhanced implementation of all our common commitments and strengthened autonomy of our institutions.** We welcome the proposal of the Irish CiO to move forward on the Astana Commemorative Declaration and their "Building Blocks Approach".

The **resolution of protracted conflicts** must remain at the core of the OSCE agenda and at the very top of our political priorities and is a *sine qua non* condition for fulfilling the goal set by our Heads of States and Governments – the security



community. We need to muster the political will to restore peace, security and stability to our region by settling the protracted conflicts in our area.

Resolving protracted conflicts has been considered, for too long as being a long-term objective. We need to rethink our mind-frame in that respect and acknowledge the urgency of tackling resolutely these serious threats to our common security. Registering tangible progress in the resolution of protracted conflicts needs to be on our daily agenda.

Last year's Ministerial Council's greatest achievement was an enhanced comprehensive framework for the OSCE action with regard to **early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation, the first after Helsinki 1992.** We welcome the implementation, so far, by the institutions and executive structures of the tasks assigned to them. However, the success of OSCE actions throughout the conflict cycle will ultimately depend on the political will of the participating States to use the Organization's vast capabilities. Time has come to reflect on the way forward in this respect also at the political level.

Dear colleagues,

I would like now to dwell upon the **military aspects of the OSCE's First Dimension.** Romania attaches great importance to the OSCE *acquis* of principles and commitments in the field of arms control and CSBMs.

Full and unconditional implementation of this *acquis* remains a pre-requisite for the strategic purpose of military stability, security and cooperation in Europe.

Regretfully, over the last years, we have witnessed a **gradual deterioration of the compliance level with regard to the arms control and CSBMs obligations.**

We believe that **urgent and reinforced efforts are needed in order to identify solutions to revert this trend.** From our perspective, solutions need to be principle-based, to build on the existing obligations and to take into account the security concerns of all participating States.

At this point I would like to draw your attention to the fact that **Romania and Germany** recently initiated a joint diplomatic demarche, at the level of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to **raise awareness of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/20 on "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures"** and to promote the regular participation of states in the recently reformed „United Nations Report on Military Expenditures“. We are particularly pleased with the substantive reaction of the Secretary General of the OSCE to promote the involvement of participating States in the new UN report on Military expenditures and the readiness of the OSCE executive structures to continue to provide technical support to OSCE participating states in this regard and to



encourage them to fully implement this instrument. In this framework we are looking forward to the swift adoption by the FSC of the **technical update of the Vienna Document 2011 in order to reflect the recent reform of this UN instrument.**

Distinguished audience,

The OSCE participating States agreed upon in Vilnius to create the Department for Transnational Threats. We should all do our best to endow this Department with the necessary strategic direction in its fields of activity in due time and have **the Decision on the OSCE consolidated framework for the fight against terrorism, the OSCE strategic framework for police-related activities and the OSCE concept for combating the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors** adopted before the summer recess. Romania is actively involved in the process of finalizing this package.

It would be very good if we are able, in Dublin, to note progress made already in **implementing these decisions.**

Much work needs to be done between now and the summer recess to have these decisions adopted, but we believe that this is realistic and hope that all pS will embark on **intensive discussions**, in order to adopt these decisions before the summer recess.

We need to make the OSCEs contribution in the field of combating transnational threats, including those stemming from Afghanistan, more visible, while exploiting better the comparative advantages of this organization.

The extension of the OSCE engagement to all three dimensions in Vilnius in relation with Afghanistan was an important step forward. **Romania underscores the need for the OSCE to focus on projects with tangible impact and robust financing to approach Central Asia and Afghanistan in an integrated manner**, on all three dimensions and considers the implementation of the ODIHR projects is essential.

Through the adoption of PC Decision 1039, the OSCE has started to play a definite role in the field of **cyber security**. We do believe that an agreement on confidence-building measures at the regional level would have a positive impact on the broader negotiations within the UN-Group of Governmental Experts.

2012 is an opportunity that should not be missed by the OSCE to **demonstrate leadership in establishing a set of confidence-building measures** designed to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability and stability and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from the use of Information and Communication Technologies. This exercise should be undertaken in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, fully respecting OSCE commitments and principles, including those in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Romania will actively participate in these discussions.



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Dear colleagues,

The security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in adjacent areas. We will fully support strengthening cooperation and sharing best practices and lessons learned with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners, in a cross-dimensional manner and in line with the Vilnius MC Decisions.

By way of concluding, let me say that we look forward to in-depth discussions these days with a view to take stock half way to Dublin. The credibility of our organization continues to depend upon identifying ways and means of bridging gap between commitments and their implementation. Our organization will not deliver according to the expectations if the participating States do not inject the necessary political will.

Thank you!