



**Intervention of Mr. Childerik Schaapveld, Head of the Council of Europe Office
in Vienna to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
Opening Session
Vienna - 26 June 2012**

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank you on behalf of Thorbjorn Jagland, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for the invitation to this year's OSCE Annual Security Review Conference. Thanks also to today's eminent keynote speakers for sharing their enlightening thoughts on the OSCE.

I would like to seize the opportunity to congratulate Secretary General Zannier on the successful reformatting of the Conference under the banner of OSCE Security Days. Yesterday's well-targeted and yet free ranging brainstorming was an innovation that, through usefully having diplomats and academia interact, has set the qualitative tone and challenging questions for the next few days. The live streaming of yesterday's debates and distance participation through Twitter are proof of the OSCE's reputation for transparency and accessibility.

Last year's Security Review Conference included a session on Cooperation with other International Organisations to which I have contributed at length in the context of the Council of Europe's own reform as well as the opening of its Office here in Vienna. This year, I'll be shorter in the hope to contribute, as requested by the Chairman, to the OSCE's reflection on this ASRC agenda by sharing with you four thoughts from the Council of Europe's perspective.

First, as was highlighted at yesterday's first Security Day, today's conflicts tend to be by a vast majority of an intra-State nature rather than between States. This will and already has an inevitable impact on the effectiveness of traditional multilateral mechanisms in general and its conflict prevention and resolution tools in particular and it is encouraging to see how the OSCE is tackling these changes head on.

The Council of Europe shares the OSCE's view of the indivisibility of security. This security, however, can only be ensured by a stability embedded in indivisible human rights, democracy and rule of law. In other words, the human dimension at the heart of peace, stability and security. This is what Secretary

General Jagland calls "deep security": both in terms of geo-strategic reality as well as through the everyday perception of individual people. Echoing yesterday's discussions: there would be no true way out of the conflict cycle without these three prerequisites. There can be no security without human rights for all. In the same vein, the Council of Europe underscores the central role of women in ensuring stability, to conflict prevention and resolution and is keenly sharing its Gender Commission work, its tools and experience in answer to the active outreach of the OSCE Gender Unit in these fields.

Among its priorities presented to the OSCE Permanent Council last week, the Albanian Council of Europe Chairmanship underlined the urgent need to follow up on the recommendations of the Eminent Persons' 2011 report "Living Together", highlighting the dangers to stability and security if we allow parallel societies to develop within our respective countries. Indeed, desolidarisation, as we are unfortunately witnessing today, might be happening at the international level but it is certainly happening within individual countries through populism and extremism with dire consequence to stability.

Second, the Council of Europe is just as involved in the virtual world where similar and more serious threats undermine what has become an indispensable tool in today's global and local human interaction, be it communication, business, education, media or governance. The Council of Europe's Strategy on Internet Governance for 2012-2015 lays out the path to ensure a safe and human rights based use of the Internet. The recent Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom organised by the Irish Chairmanship and the Confidence Building Measures currently being discussed in the OSCE's Informal Working Group on Cybersecurity under the able chairing of the United States and with valuable expertise from the Cybersecurity Unit of the OSCE's new TNT Department will form indispensable principles and building blocks in ensuring good governance of the Internet.

Third, security and stability do not just stop at borders and the Council of Europe, just like the OSCE, is keen to enter into partnerships, through its Neighbourhood Policy, with its surrounding countries. In the Southern Mediterranean, it has already concluded substantial so-called Agreements on Cooperation in Priority Areas with Morocco and Tunisia and is in the process of opening offices in Rabat and Tunis. Here too, the OSCE and the Council of Europe can usefully join forces and the participation of the Council of Europe in the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group on the Human Dimension chaired by Ukraine in July is a first next step.

Finally, fourth, The Council of Europe's main reforms have been completed paying particular attention to the evolutionary nature of the European as well as global architecture. Rather than ending with a consolidated fixed structure, Secretary General Jagland's vision favoured a more flexible change management structure benefiting from the input of the Council of Europe's

reputed monitoring mechanisms such as on human rights infringements, corruption, money laundering, drug use, trafficking in human beings, the investigative reports of the Venice Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly and the wide range of field offices as well as new and strengthened liaison offices in Brussels, Geneva, Vienna and Warsaw.

Echoing Secretary General Zannier's intervention at the beginning of this session and the Ambassador of Canada, the complexity of today's challenges undermining security and stability ranging from the impact of the social economic crisis to the interlinkages of transnational threats and organized crime to frozen conflicts and faced with the dwindling resources to tackle them, compels us - as international organisations - to seek ever closer strategic coordination at the political level as well as enhancing joint efforts at the operational level. The Council of Europe is pro-actively building up this coordination with its main international partners such as the EU, the UN family and the OSCE in the conviction that such partnerships ultimately offer greater benefit to our people.

The three high level visits of the Council of Europe to the OSCE Permanent Council this first half of the year and the multitude of expert contacts between the two Secretariats and autonomous OSCE executive structures and the two Parliamentary Assemblies, all bear testimony to how serious this coordination is taken. Significantly, This coordination already extends well beyond the four formal areas of cooperation between the CoE and the OSCE such as Tolerance and Non-discrimination and National Minorities as well as security-related fields such as Trafficking in Human Beings and the Fight against Terrorism to include such fundamental areas as freedom of the media and free and fair elections.

As was emphasised yesterday by a number of speakers and interventions, the OSCE's important and forward-looking debate on its mission within a Euroatlantic and Eurasian security community is not happening in a vacuum. The Council of Europe, with its wide array of relevant mechanisms and experience stands ever ready to work closely with the OSCE towards achieving its important shared objectives for ensuring peace and stability in Europe.

Thank you very much.