



## **European Conference on Countering Violent Extremism**

**Oslo, 5 June 2015**

### **Remarks by Thomas Wuchte OSCE Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues**

#### **Session 6**

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to have been invited to address working session 6 “Global Co-operation to Counter Violent Extremism” today. I take it as a sign of interest in what the OSCE does and also – might it sound too ambitious – in what areas the White House **Countering Violent Extremism** (CVE) process and the OSCE are able to join their efforts in the fight against terrorism. As I develop this topic today, I hope this presentation will demonstrate that the OSCE represents a strong and reliable partner in delivering united counter-terrorism collaboration in the OSCE area and I look forward to continuing and further enhancing our genuine collaboration in this field.

The OSCE puts its highest priority on developing close partnerships with the rest of the international community.

My remarks today will specifically focus on the growing CVE co-operation and its potential, and argue that strategically in the lead up to the Summit Implementation Review at the UN General Assembly, the OSCE is a perfect match to support global efforts against terrorism and violent extremism, and that there can be no argument against closer collaboration, mutually reinforcing each other’s efforts. Not to exploit the similarities in our comprehensive programmatic work would leave untapped resources (and could be seen as counterproductive to our shared goals) in the fight against violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism.

#### **Strategic Documents Guiding the OSCE’s Action against Terrorism**

The **OSCE’s Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism** (PC.DEC/1063) and its **Basel Declaration on Foreign Terrorist Fighters** (MC.DOC/5/14) reiterate the

relevance and full applicability of the OSCE's trademark concept of comprehensive and co-operative security with regard to the fight against terrorism. But – it is visionary to turn words into action, and to turn action into partnership.

The OSCE **multi-dimensional approach** underlines that alongside politico-military aspects of security, the protection and promotion of human rights as well as economic development and environmental sustainability are inextricable parts of security and stability. Among the four Pillars of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism is arguably most important, but not always resourced across such multidimensional tracks.

### **Guiding Principles for the Delivery of OSCE Anti-Terrorism Efforts**

The Consolidated Framework contains guidelines highlighting the need to further co-ordinate our efforts internally and to co-operate externally with relevant stakeholders to counter terrorism.

- **Regarding Internal Co-ordination:**

The OSCE Secretariat ensures the facilitation and co-ordination of all OSCE activities related to counter-terrorism across the different dimensions as well as between the different structures of the organization. **Our Transnational Threats Department (TNTD)** acts as the focal point of co-ordination in this area. Its three units which are the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) and the Border Security and Management Unit (BSMU) independently or jointly contribute to preventing and countering terrorism.

- **Regarding External Co-operation:**

As I stated in the beginning, the OSCE plays particular attention to co-operation with other stakeholders, especially the United Nations and specialized international organizations like INTERPOL. We want to help promote existing international instruments, standards, and tools to counter terrorism, instead of inventing our own, while being innovative and creative on specific issues, identifying good practices and lessons learnt for implementation.

We also work closely with regional and sub-regional partners in and around Europe, such as, but not limited to: the OSCE Members States from the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Commonwealth of Independent States – Anti-Terrorism Centre (CIS-ATC), the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-RATS).

## **Perfect Match**

As I mentioned in my introduction, the CVE process and the OSCE are a perfect match in a sense that:

- The UN will provide an action plan globally whereas the OSCE has a regional approach against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- The OSCE has already adopted a regional framework in support of the global counter-terrorism strategy;
- As the CVE process seeks to raise standards, the OSCE is a promoter of such standards on a regional level;
- When looking for capacity facilitators, the OSCE has comparative advantages with specialized expertise and unique local knowledge – together with its Secretariat, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Representative of Freedom of the Media (RFoM), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), and its field operations.

## **An OSCE Campaign Approach**

As more and more communities in both the OSCE area and neighbouring regions face growing threats from violence motivated by extremism, as well as increasing intolerance towards people from different cultural, ethnic, national and/or religious backgrounds, it is more important than ever to confront these challenges co-operatively and comprehensively. The entire OSCE family needs to come together around a persuasive counter-narrative to violent extremism.

To respond to this challenge, the OSCE Secretary General, together with the 2015 Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, decided to launch the first-ever OSCE-wide communication campaign to send a powerful message that unites the voices across our region and Organization against the forces of intolerance and violent extremism. That message is: **“OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism.”**

The **“OSCE United”** campaign is intended to encourage all parts of the OSCE, including Institutions, field operations, the Secretariat, participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as voices from academia, non-governmental institutions, civil society and youth, to speak out, mobilize others, and undertake initiatives against intolerance and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

The goal of the campaign is to promote a multi-dimensional approach to countering terrorist radicalization and violent extremism. It aims to mobilize our activities, promote consensus in rejecting violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism, and raise awareness among the general public. In line with OSCE efforts to address challenges arising from violent extremism, including the rapidly growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the campaign encompasses all three dimensions of security, touching on crucial issues such as human rights, freedom of media, criminal justice, migration, integration, tolerance and non-discrimination, and the rights of national minorities.

The “**OSCE United**” campaign will frame a series of events, workshops and pilot courses to support efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism throughout the OSCE region and beyond. The OSCE Institutions, field operations, Secretariat, participating States and Partners for Co-operation are called upon to support the campaign, and to promote its motto, “**OSCE United**,” in all relevant activities and appropriate correspondence.

The campaign will also be promoted through the OSCE magazine, podcasts, social media and other mass media approaches, building on the activities of OSCE executive structures to reinforce the unified message.

The Serbian OSCE Chairmanship will also help to promote this campaign, and encourage it to be carried forward by future OSCE chairmanships.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, I would like to say that our efforts are driven by the conviction that regional and sub-regional organizations are instrumental as force multipliers and delivery mechanisms for counter-terrorism assistance. Operationalizing Chapter VIII of the UN Charter involves using "regional arrangement [...] for ... action under its authority", which is a powerful way to enhance our impact globally and locally, such as is intended through the CVE process.

The OSCE strives to make a tangible contribution to the security of people by drawing on our comparative advantages, namely a comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, a unique geographical reach and multi-dimensional expertise, to offer innovative, reliable and collaborative result-oriented assistance.

I look forward to hearing your views on how we can better collaborate to enhance efforts to counter terrorism. I appreciate your time. Thank you!!