

**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE,
IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION ON THE PRIORITIES
OF THE EU LUXEMBURG PRESIDENCY
(Permanent Council, 27 January 2005)**

Mr. Chairman,

Like previous speakers we would also like to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister to the Permanent Council today and to thank him for sharing with us the Luxembourg EU Presidency's priorities vis-a-vis the OSCE, as well as his thoughts of a more general nature.

Before addressing some of the elements of topical importance in his statement, my delegation, on this day joins the Deputy Prime Minister in remembering the countless innocent victims of the Shoah. The memories of all who perished in this unique, unprecedented and unparalleled tragedy of the 20th century history will not be forgotten.

Inspired by His Excellency's comments on the development of the EU and the enlargement process, allow me to first say a few words regarding Turkey's accession process to the EU. That Turkey has met the Copenhagen criteria has now been unquestionably affirmed, first by the Commission's progress report of 6 October 2004 and subsequently re-affirmed at the EU Summit on 17 December 2004. Even the most critical observers admit that the reform process in my country over the past few years is tantamount both in its thrust and substance to a silent revolution. And as William Seward once said "I know and all the world knows that revolutions never go backward". Suffice it to say that Turkey will stay the course and will irreversibly build upon the present reforms to fulfill the immutable aspiration of its citizens to achieve full membership.

As the Deputy Prime Minister has highlighted in his presentation, the EU is bursting its old shell which no longer suffices to house this evolving institution, both in light of the new capacities it is developing and the outreach it aspires to, as well as in line with its justified vision to take on greater responsibility in global security and global governance. Turkish accession to the EU can only contribute to those goals, besides presenting many new and unprecedented opportunities for enhanced regional co-operation in the geography surrounding Turkey, to the benefit of the EU and the countries in the Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia. This is equally significant for the OSCE in terms of regional peace, stability and security.

In echoing many colleagues who have spoken before me, we also wish to voice our strong support to the objectives of the EU Luxembourg Presidency as outlined in His Excellency's statement and will do our best to contribute towards the realization of those objectives by working closely with Ambassador Jacques Reuter and his able team. To this end, we do not see our status of candidate country as placing limitations on our capacity to make that contribution. We have studied in detail the Assessment Report on the EU's role vis-a-vis the OSCE mentioned in your statement and believe that the said report constitutes a valid and concrete basis upon which to further enhance mutually supportive co-operation between the OSCE and the EU. Particularly, the operational priorities set therein contain the necessary guidance to contribute to ongoing work at the OSCE in tangible terms. What is most needed is for the EU to work more extensively through the OSCE to create the conditions for interface where needed.

In the new security environment in Europe where delineation of the roles and responsibilities of regional organizations are becoming ever more blurred, where, despite our efforts to prevent duplication, the multi-dimensional and trans-national nature of risks and challenges to our security are taxing our capacity to address them in an orderly and linear fashion, close co-operation, synergy and support become increasingly more important than an academic discussion on avoiding overlapping in areas of mutual competence.

Nevertheless, it is often overlooked that the OSCE today, still constitutes the only pan-European forum for comprehensive and co-operative security dialogue encompassing all three dimensions. In this, the OSCE is unique and has no alternative. Therefore, the EU's commitment to investing in a strong partnership between the EU and the OSCE, thereby sending to all partners a signal of engagement and involvement in OSCE issues could not have come at a more timely manner.

In closing, I would like to mention one last issue of importance to both the OSCE and the EU, which merits sharper focus, close and urgent attention by the Presidency. And that is the issue of co-operation between the OSCE and the EU in promoting intercultural dialogue. Both organizations must utilize the tools available to them in addressing the issue within the Euro-Atlantic community, as well as in further reaching out to our partners in the neighbouring areas.

We thank the Deputy Prime Minister for being with us.