



“Building the Security Community”

Keynote speech by Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Helga Schmid

at the Opening Session of the 2012 Annual Security Review Conference of the OSCE

It is a real pleasure to be here again and attend the Annual Security Review Conference. I feel that this annual conference is an important venue to share thoughts about our work in building the future Security Community. I would like to commend the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier for including the academic community and think tanks into this discussion. I have heard positive feedback from those who participated in the Security Days yesterday. Events like these give fresh ideas into the discussion on how to advance our common work.

The tasking from Astana is nothing less than building a common Security Community. In my address today, I will reflect on the core issues, which I believe are – and will remain – essential in this process from the European point of view.

But before doing so, I would briefly like to recall that the EU is an increasingly important provider of security. We currently have 12 missions and operations in civilian and military crisis management and over 5000 deployed troops and staff on the ground worldwide. Three more missions are to be deployed this summer. The EU – much like the OSCE – pursues a comprehensive approach towards security. Let us take the example of the Horn of Africa, where we are all facing serious challenges. The approach we have taken is comprehensive, combining diplomatic instruments with the appointment of an EU Special Representative, economic assistance, support to the rule of law and governance structures, the training of Somali security forces, the provision of maritime security capacity building through the EUCAP Nestor mission – not to mention our naval operation EU ATALANTA, which has been deployed since 2008 and which closely cooperates with the international partners involved. The same comprehensive approach is followed in the Sahel region, where we are about to launch a new Crisis Management (CDSP) mission in Niger to improve the capacity of Nigerien security forces to fight against terrorism and organised crime.

In the OSCE areas, the obvious examples of our operational engagement through CSDP are our missions in Georgia (EUMM), Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM and EUFOR ALTHEA), and Kosovo (EULEX). We try to closely co-operate with the OSCE to ensure synergies of our work. In this regard, I would like to commend the facilitation work carried out by the OSCE for the elections in Kosovo and the personal engagement of Lamberto Zannier. As part of our comprehensive approach, our missions and operations are always accompanied by other types of EU commitments – be it through the Eastern Partnership towards our Eastern Neighbours or the pre-accession process in the Balkans covering a wide range of sectors from education to rural development or rule of law. Beyond that, our Foreign Ministers have just yesterday decided to strengthen the EU's engagement in Central Asia, which is also an area of increased relevance within the OSCE. As part of the implementation of our Central Asia Strategy, we will pay particular attention to crucial security issues, such as cooperation on counter-terrorism, CBRN risk mitigation or on border-management with Afghanistan. To this end, we have established a High Level Security Dialogue with our Central Asian Partners to address these challenges together.

We also work on strengthening our mediation as well as conflict prevention capacities. Let me mention our partnerships – not only with the OSCE, the UN, NATO, and the AU – but also through bilateral framework agreements with third countries.

As regards the cooperation with NATO, the Chicago Summit provided an opportunity to reinforce it, in particular on concrete initiatives on pooling and sharing. Afghanistan also remains a key area of our joint efforts. We have also been working with Deputy Foreign Minister Grushko on a framework agreement on participation in crisis management missions, based on our successful cooperation in Chad, where our mission of 3600 men provided protection to refugees and contributed to improve security.

The EU continues to be an important actor in the area of conflict prevention and resolution worldwide and is directly engaged in key international processes. The EU High Representative's personal engagement – both as a key member of the Middle East Quartet and a tireless proponent of Palestinian state-building based on the rule of law – continues to sustain the possibility of a return to negotiations establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The European Union also continues to work closely with the Russian Federation, the US, China and three European countries in the framework of the E3+3 with the aim of addressing the concerns of the international community on the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. We all agree that a negotiated solution is the only way forward.

We are also directly engaged in the talks on the resolution of two of the protracted conflicts in the

OSCE area, through the Geneva International Discussions on the conflict in Georgia and the “5 plus 2” talks on Transnistria. We are encouraged by some positive progress of the talks on Transnistria and we are looking forward to the upcoming round of negotiations in Vienna. We also continue to be substantially involved in Kosovo, including through the EULEX mission. Let me welcome the engagement of the US, which contributes to this mission with seconded personnel. Apart from this, we play a substantial supporting role for the resolution of protracted conflicts, through supporting the democratization processes and economic integration in our Neighbourhood, as well as through increased funding for confidence building measures.

The OSCE remains an important partner for the EU. We are also supporting the OSCE work through our working on cross-cutting issues that are key to sustainable conflict resolution, namely human rights and gender aspects of crisis management. It is often said that there is no security without development, but there is neither security without protection of human rights. The EU Foreign Ministers just yesterday approved during the Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg a comprehensive package on our Human rights policy. Women are important agents for peaceful change. Earlier this month, the EU convened its annual meeting on Women, Peace and Security, followed by a meeting bringing together all the human rights and gender advisors of our missions and operations. We were very pleased indeed that the OSCE's Senior Advisor on Gender issues joined us.

We continue to strongly support the OSCE, which remains for us a key forum of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. Its broad membership ranging from Vancouver to Vladivostok and its concept of comprehensive security are unique. It enjoys a wide network of field operations and strong autonomous institutions, which provide support to the participating States in the implementation of their commitments. We highly value both, and believe that the OSCE should make the best use of these unique advantages, which no other security organization enjoys.

However, the OSCE – as any other international organizations – needs to occasionally reflect on its tasks and toolkit in order to remain relevant and continue providing its members value-added in the changing security environment.

In this context, I very much welcome the ongoing discussions on the establishment of a Security Community in the OSCE area, on the basis of the long term vision agreed in Astana. The Helsinki + 40 process initiated by the Irish Chairmanship is certainly a pragmatic and good way to promote the Astana tasking in cooperation with the incoming CiOs and provides a realistic timeframe for it. The proposed approach to use the building blocks available in the areas of combating transnational threats, the conflict cycle, arms control and Confidence and Security Building measures could help us to get closer to achieving our vision of a Security Community.

In this context, I would like to stress five key building blocks for the Security Community, which we feel will remain of utmost importance from the European Union's point of view. But I believe they are also important considerations from the wider Euro-Atlantic as well as Eurasian point of view.

- Firstly, the future Security Community should build on the comprehensive concept of security, which is one of the strengths of the OSCE. In this context, the Human Dimension remains of great importance. Certainly the recent turmoil in North Africa and the ongoing conflict in Syria clearly demonstrate this.
- Secondly, there is an urgent need to make progress in resolving conflicts in the OSCE area. Let me mention the recurring deadly incidents between participating States, like the recent ones on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and at the Line of Contact in Nagorno Karabakh. These can not be accepted by OSCE participating States. They also illustrate how much work there is still to be done to achieve our common goal to establish a Security Community. This is why making progress in the resolution of conflicts would in fact be a major trust-builder among participating States.
- Thirdly, the OSCE should further strengthen its toolkit to combat transnational threats, which represent a serious challenge in an increasingly interdependent world. I am pleased about some recent progress in the area of cyber security in the OSCE and would like to commend the Irish CiO for putting emphasis on this issue. However, more work needs to be done in the field of transnational threats. As a start, the three remaining Vilnius "left-overs", the draft decisions on police, drugs, and counter-terrorism, should be adopted without delay. In addition, more work is needed in the area of organized crime and trafficking in human beings. These are issues that can not be dealt with by one country or even one organization. Broad international cooperation is essential, including with the UN, EU and other regional organizations.
- Fourthly, arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures remain an important cornerstone for the future Security Community. The interlocking network of treaties, commitments and norms within the OSCE is in the common interest of all participating States. This comprehensive *acquis* should be revitalised, updated and modernised, in order to be relevant in the current politico-military realities and to continue to provide stability, predictability and transparency in the military field.
- Last but not least, all participating States need to work towards implementing fully their OSCE commitments. I would like to recall here that OSCE commitments are not taken by international organizations or by civil society, but by participating States. They have the primary responsibility to ensure their implementation. A failure of the OSCE in fact is always a failure of the participating States.

Finally, I would like to refer to the views recently expressed by some participating States about the existence of two security communities under the roof of the OSCE, and the growing gap between them. I am absolutely convinced that our security is indivisible, in an increasingly interdependent world even more so than ever. I feel that the way forward is to create win-win situations and to work on common issues, such as transnational threats.

I would also add a word on our increased cooperation with Turkey in the field of foreign policy. Apart from Turkey's contribution to our operation ALTHEA in Bosnia, we also maintain a regular dialogue on important issues.

Overall, we need to move forward on the resolution of conflicts and work together in different international formats. The EU is ready for this.

Thank you for attention.