

MEMORIE E STUDI DIPLOMATICI

COLLANA DIRETTA DA STEFANO BALDI

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**ITALY IN THE OSCE**  
ITALIAN INITIATIVES AND STATEMENTS  
AT THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Editoriale Scientifica





**Memorie e studi diplomatici**  
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# ITALY IN THE OSCE

Italian Initiatives and Statements at the Organization  
for Security and Co-operation in Europe

STEFANO BALDI, MASSIMO DREI, VITO MOSÈ PIERRO

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## INTRODUCTION

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is without doubt a peculiar international organization, both structurally and in terms of its functioning. Among its features is the fact that, almost fifty years after the Helsinki Final act in 1975 and more than twenty five years after its creation (Budapest, 1995), this Organization remains usually unknown to the wider public and is underestimated in terms of its role and activities in the vast geographical region in which it operates.

Several factors explain this lack of knowledge including the relatively limited documentation available and research undertaken, especially in languages other than English.

This is one of the reasons for this publication, which aims on the one hand to provide basic information on the functioning of the OSCE (Part I), and on the other hand to give an overview of Italy's role within the Organization by highlighting a number of Italian initiatives (Part II) and by collecting Italian statements at the Ministerial Councils (Part III) and Summits (Part IV). Originally published in Italian, this volume has been fully revised and updated.

Italy is among the top five contributors to the OSCE, both in terms of financial support and human resources. These simple figures alone highlight the significant role that Italy plays within the Organization. Italy has also been supporting a wide range of activities in various countries, often through the financing of extra-budgetary projects. Part II of this volume offers a selection of significant examples of such commitment.

Part III is a collection of statements delivered by the heads of Italian delegations at meetings of the OSCE Council of Ministers - a body composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the participating States. Part IV includes statements by Italy at the OSCE Summits - the highest decision and policy-making body of the Organization - in Budapest in 1994 and Lisbon in 1996. Such statements provide relevant information on Italy's political priorities in the Organization.

A close reading of the collected statements will help to understand how the OSCE, for the past thirty years, has worked as a platform for dialogue, in line with the “Spirit of Helsinki” on which it is based. Over this period, there have been many changes on the international scene, including in the vast geopolitical area covered by the OSCE. Throughout all these changes, the need to keep a window of communication and cooperation open within the region has remained constant, despite moments of friction, crisis and even conflict.

The reading of Italy’s statements at the Ministerial Councils and the Summits also sheds light on the recent history of the OSCE and its evolution, characterized not only by the responses given to external challenges but also by major internal changes. In particular, two important factors stand out: the growing role of human rights – the so-called human dimension – in OSCE commitments and policies, and an increasingly visible and decisive role of the European Union, which has become a central player in the Organization.

The human dimension is nowadays a cornerstone of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, alongside the politico-military and the economic-environmental dimensions. Early on, the work of the OSCE in the human dimension focused almost exclusively on the rule of law and the building of democratic institutions, for example through election monitoring. Over time, thanks to the work of three dedicated institutions (the ODIHR - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the RFOM – the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the HCNM - High Commissioner on National Minorities), it has expanded to encompass a broad range of human rights issues such as the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against intolerance and xenophobia, the protection of freedom of expression and media freedom in the wake of the digital revolution, and the fight against gender-based violence.

The Member States of the European Union closely coordinate their positions and speak at the OSCE with one voice. The increasingly important relationship between the EU and the OSCE is emphasized several times in Italy’s statements, particularly when Italy held the OSCE Chairmanship in 1994 and 2018 and Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2003 and 2014.

There are other possible ways of interpreting this collection of statements. In addition to the political angle, there is also a stylistic point of view, which has also a certain interest and attraction. A comparative analysis of the style used in the statements highlights the evolution of the narrative, as well as the content. While it is true that those who have delivered them inevitably influence the texts, the fact remains that they have been prepared, in their basic outline, by the same ministerial diplomatic structures, which follow the work of the Organization on a daily basis and are tasked with implementing the Italian foreign policy line as defined by the Government. For example, over time ministerial statements are organized in a more structured manner, differentiating priorities by dimension, abandoning a more general and theoretical approach in favour of a more concrete and results-oriented action, including with reference to specific crises and conflict situations in the OSCE area. An overview of the main issues considered in the statements over the years gives an idea of historical contingencies and the possible contribution of the OSCE to their resolutions. While not all texts are available, the collection nevertheless offers a broad picture of Italy's key positions on major events in the OSCE region.

It is by looking at the many activities and statements that the key role played by Italy in the OSCE becomes concrete and visible. Italy has always been open and constructive in its positions and actions, providing the OSCE with constant support through financial and human resources contributions. At a pivotal moment for the Organization, as we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, it is our wish that this volume will serve as a reminder of the key contribution of Italy to the OSCE and an inspiration for the future.

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At the 8th Ministerial Council held in Vienna on 27-28 November 2000, Mr. Umberto Ranieri, Deputy Foreign Minister, recalled the adoption in the previous year of the important Istanbul Documents and emphasized the OSCE's commitment in combating the use of children in armed conflicts. In marking the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the Deputy Foreign Minister called

for the strengthening of political dialogue in the OSCE area on armed conflicts and military aggression, as well as transnational phenomena such as terrorism, organized crime, and illicit trade.

The following year, in Bucharest on 3-4 December 2001, the 9th Ministerial Council took place not long after the terrorist attacks of September 11 in the USA. The head of the Italian delegation, Mr. Mario Baccini, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in referring to the terrorist attacks, expressed support for the Plan of Action against terrorism presented at the Council, reasserting the importance of a joint commitment on security and multilateral instruments to strengthen solidarity, cooperation, and international relations.

At the 10th Ministerial Council, held on 6-7 December 2002 in Porto, a little over a year after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Decision No. 1 on the “Implementation of OSCE Commitments and Activities to Combat Terrorism” was approved. The head of the Italian delegation, Mr. Roberto Antonione, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, emphasized that combating terrorism remained one of the most important priorities of the international community. The alliance and solidarity that followed the events of September 11 demonstrated the strength of common dialogue and the potential of the OSCE to translate the comprehensive concept of security into concrete action.

The 11th Ministerial Council took place in Maastricht on 1-2 December 2003 and was attended by Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who spoke on behalf of the European Union as Italy was holding the Presidency in the second semester of the year. Foreign Minister Frattini recalled the recently adopted document “Strategy for Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century” which emphasized the role of the OSCE in the three dimensions of security and called for close cooperation with other international organizations to strengthen the effectiveness and credibility of the OSCE, particularly in the resolution of the so-called “protracted conflicts”.

## INTRODUCTION

In the wake of the terrorist attack in Madrid, Mr. Roberto Antonione, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, emphasized at the 12th Ministerial Council in Sofia on 6-7 December 2004 the need to strengthen democracies as the only real means against hatred and intolerance. Strengthening the rule of law, democratic institutions, sound economic development, and confidence in public affairs were the OSCE's effective tools for helping countries suffering from ethnically motivated conflicts and tensions.

The year 2005 marked the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, and during the 13th Ministerial Council held in Ljubljana on 5-6 December 2005, the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Roberto Antonione, highlighted the significance of the broad convergence reached on a series of principles. These included the reaffirmation of the commitments undertaken in Helsinki, the enhancement of the three dimensions of security and the strengthening of the institutions and the missions in the field. In order to achieve these objectives, Italy stated its willingness to increase its contribution to the OSCE budget. In addition, Italy's expertise in the fight against terrorism was offered at the international level, also promoting cooperation between the OSCE and UNODC in this field.

The 14th Ministerial Council took place in Brussels on 4-5 December 2006. Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vittorio Craxi, stated that Italy was in favor of transforming the OSCE into a fully-fledged international organization with full international personality and legal capacity. Having achieved a balance between the three dimensions, it was time to give more power to the executive bodies of the Organization such as the ODIHR, and to develop partnership projects more thoroughly, in particular with the Mediterranean countries.

Mr. Famiano Crucianelli, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, spoke at the 15th Ministerial Council in Madrid, held on 29-30 November 2007. Mr. Crucianelli praised the concrete OSCE instruments which strengthen cooperation with the countries of Central Asia. Such cooperation was an important political priority for Italy

and the EU. The Undersecretary expressed Italy's support for the training of border guards along the southern border of the OSCE region in Central Asia, to counter illicit trade such as drug trafficking. Italy also advocated a positive solution to the impasse over the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).

The future of security in Europe was the central theme of the 16th Ministerial Council, held in Helsinki on 4-5 December 2008. Mr. Alfredo Mantica, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs welcomed the proposals of Presidents Medvedev and Sarkozy for a multilateral discussion on the future of security in Europe. Italy again drew attention to the issue of the OSCE's international legal personality.

The 17th Ministerial Council took place in Athens on 1-2 December 2009 and focused on the issue of security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region. The Permanent Representative of Italy, Ambassador Gianfranco Varvesi, emphasized the strengthening of conflict prevention mechanisms, considering new tools – such as Early Warning – that can be effective in dealing with new threats and increasing synergy among States. It was stated that increased control and monitoring of the conflict zones required strengthening of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata spoke at the 18th Ministerial Council meeting on 6-7 December 2011 in Vilnius, pointing out that the Arab Spring was a reminder of the mutual connection between democratic growth and stability. In this regard, the Minister emphasized that an increased focus on the Mediterranean dimension would give greater relevance to the OSCE partnership with these countries. In the wake of the Corfu Process, Italy welcomed the strengthening of conflict management mechanisms and the enhancement of the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

Ms Marta Dassù, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, participating in the 19th Ministerial Council in Dublin on 6-7 December 2012, highlighted the stalemate of the OSCE, which remained somewhere between unfinished business and

a real security community. The Vice Minister expressed the Italian support for reforming the old agenda, adapting the Organization to new challenges and thus confirming its international relevance. It was recognised that the OSCE had a strong and dynamic operational apparatus that can be decisive in combating transnational threats, for example through the work of the Conflict Prevention Centre. Italy also expressed its support for the proposals of the incoming Irish Chairmanship regarding media freedom and xenophobia as priorities for national policies .

At the 20th Ministerial Council which took place in Kiev on 5-6 December 2013 Mr. Mario Giro, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, recalled the Helsinki +40 process, launched in Astana for an indivisible, free and democratic Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community based on a more homogenous political, economic, and cultural space. The adaptability that the OSCE demonstrated in facing different threats with new means, especially in the field of cyber-security, was acknowledged. Among the OSCE's achievements, the creation of the Forum for Security Cooperation and the holding of Security Days were praised.

During the 21st Ministerial Council on 4-5 December 2014 in Basel, Italy recalled the paramount importance of the OSCE's cooperation with the Mediterranean Partners. Italy drew attention to the threat posed by "marriages of convenience" between terrorism and organized crime and the need to combat such connections.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, spoke at the 22nd Ministerial Council meeting on 3-4 December 2015 in Belgrade focusing specifically on the Ukrainian crisis, which in addition to causing numerous victims was leading Ukraine towards serious economic instability. The OSCE was working hard to find a solution to the crisis through the various dialogue and monitoring platforms developed by the Organization. Italy expressed support for Germany's compromise proposal for a 1% increase in the annual budget. Italy was also in favour of the revision of the Vienna Document, as well as the admission of Libya to the Mediterranean Contact Group (now Partnership).

At the 23rd Ministerial Council held in Hamburg on 8-9 December 2016, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, spoke about the European security crisis, highlighting the need for a greater OSCE response compared to the past. He specifically mentioned the need to safeguard and consolidate the OSCE, as the only existing framework that can facilitate cooperation and safeguard collective security in the pan-European space. Concerning the Ukrainian crisis, the Minister stressed that dialogue, though necessary, was not sufficient on its own if it was not accompanied by concrete steps that only the parties can take. The Minister drew attention to security in the Mediterranean, pointing out that the experience and history of the OSCE can also offer valuable insights for the Mediterranean region.

2017 was the year leading to the Italian Chairmanship in 2018 and, during the 24th Ministerial Council on 7-8 December in Vienna, Mr. Angelino Alfano, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed Italy's willingness to contribute to the success of the OSCE. Mr. Alfano emphasized that the future Italian Chairmanship would be based on dialogue, respectful listening, responsibility, and strong shared commitment. Minister Alfano also emphasized that the multilateralism typical of the OSCE was instrumental in the implementation of several peace plans, first and foremost the Minsk Agreements for the Ukrainian crisis, but also in the resolution of the conflicts in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdniestria. The "Structured Dialogue" was crucial to take more ambitious steps in the area of arms control. Foreign Minister Alfano appealed to consider the OSCE as a "common good" that must also be protected in a financial sense, with a regular and balanced adoption of the budget.

At the 25th Ministerial Council, held in Milan on 6-7 December 2018, under the Italian Chairmanship, Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi highlighted the importance of Italy's role in multilateral diplomacy. The motto of the Italian Chairmanship was "Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility", as it was time for the OSCE to renew itself and take a proactive and central position within the region. To do so, Italy was committed to always maintaining a constructive dialogue among participating States. It was precisely for this

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reason that the Italian Chairmanship was promoting the OSCE's Mediterranean dimension, turning attention to Euro-Mediterranean security and especially to the management of migration flows from Africa. Italy continued to work on conflict settlement, achieving the signing of the Rome Protocol on Transdnistria in the 5+2 format.

Ms Marina Sereni, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the 26th Ministerial Council in Bratislava on 5-6 December 2019, urged to work towards effective multilateralism, where OSCE principles, such as the rule of consensus, are translated into strong tools to enforce decisions taken in the Organization. Italy hoped for an end to the crisis in Ukraine, thanks to the OSCE's political dialogue with the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group. Ms Sereni also pointed out that European security was showing signs of fragmentation and that this made it even more crucial to modernize the Vienna Document and to enhance the Structured Dialogue.

The 27th Ministerial Council of 3-4 December 2020, under Albanian Chairmanship, was the first to be held, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, by videoconference. The health situation and the related security scenarios figured prominently in the statement of Ms Marina Sereni, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The pandemic crisis showed the need for a multilateral and cooperative approach to counter the common security challenges. Among these, environmental security was a priority, which should also become a pillar for Mediterranean stability. Appreciation was expressed for the Albanian Chairmanship and for its priorities such as combating corruption and promoting gender equality. There was also a reference to the urgent need to reform the contribution system of the OSCE budget.

The 28th Ministerial Council on 2 and 3 December 2021, under Swedish Chairpersonship, took place in Stockholm entirely in presence. In his statement, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Benedetto Della Vedova, noted with regret that the previous year's calls for a renewed impetus of multilateralism unfortunately did not

come to fruition. The situation “in and around Ukraine” had a prominent role in the Italian intervention while attention was also paid to the protracted conflicts and to developments in Afghanistan and Belarus. On the 30th anniversary of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the milestone of the 400th election observation mission and the crucial work of the ODIHR was recalled with satisfaction. Appreciation was expressed for the Swedish Chairpersonship for its work during a year still strongly marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and for the strong commitment, in all three dimensions, on gender issues.

The 29th Ministerial Council took place in Łódź on 1-2 December 2022. Italy’s statement by Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Giorgio Silli, focused on Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine started on 24 February 2022. He condemned Russia’s unjustified and illegal war and called on Russia to end it immediately and to withdraw all its forces and military equipment. He reiterated Italy’s support to the brave people of Ukraine and highlighted the OSCE contribution to the efforts of the international community to ensure accountability for the war crimes committed in Ukraine and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as the activation of the Moscow Mechanism and ODIHR’s monitoring activities. Mr. Silli recalled that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of legitimate concern to all participating States as reaffirmed in the Astana Declaration in 2010. The Undersecretary stressed that it was crucial to preserve the OSCE in the current difficult times, as it was the only regional organization uniting North America, Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The 30th Ministerial Council took place on 30 November - 1 December 2023 in Skopje under the Chairpersonship of North Macedonia. In her statement, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms Maria Tripodi, underlined that in the face of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, the OSCE kept true to its founding values and continued to effectively discharge its mandate. Italy condemned Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine with the complicity of Belarus and confirmed Italy’s support to Ukraine. Italy worked to safe-

## INTRODUCTION

guard the OSCE and was very pleased that consensus could be found on Malta as Chair for 2024. Ms Tripodi expressed the hope that the mandates of the Secretary General and the heads of the Autonomous Institutions would be renewed<sup>1</sup>. She criticized the misuse of the consensus rule, strongly regretting that after 2021 it proved impossible to adopt a Unified Budget. The Undersecretary, recalling that Italy was among the first contributors to the OSCE both financially and in terms of personnel, assured that Italy would continue to work for the common good of the Organization, calling on all participating States to act likewise.

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<sup>1</sup> The decisions on the renewal of the mandates were taken the day after the Undersecretary delivered her intervention, on 1 December.



# PART I

## Brief Overview of the OSCE



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was founded in 1995 as a development of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Its main founding documents are the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Istanbul Charter for European Security (1999) and the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010).

The OSCE, whose decision-making processes require consensus among all 57 participating States, promotes cooperation on regional security issues and the adoption of political, but not legally binding, commitments. It has several instruments for conflict management that do not include coercive measures.

### *57 participating States*

Thanks to the participation of 57 States, the OSCE promotes a comprehensive and broad concept of security, “from Vancouver to Vladivostok”, bringing all European, North American, and Central Asian countries to the same table. The Organization also cooperates with six Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) and five Asian Partners (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand).

The Permanent Representatives of the 57 participating States meet in the Permanent Council on a weekly basis to discuss current issues and take decisions concerning the functioning of the Organization. The Permanent Council is the main policy-making body in the periods between meetings of the Council of Ministers.

### *The importance of the OSCE*

Over the years, the OSCE, also thanks to its numerous field missions in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe (Western Balkans) and Central Asia, has become an important instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, non-military crisis management and post-conflict reconciliation. In addition, the OSCE represents an important forum for promoting conventional arms control and politico-military transparency and confidence-building measures. The OSCE also promotes cooperation between countries in combating transnational

threats (terrorism, international organized crime, human trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, etc.), on security-related economic and environmental issues and on human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as on democracy and the rule of law.

Underlying the Organization's activities is the concept of "comprehensive security", which implies the multifaceted nature of the conditions necessary to ensure peace and stability.

### *The institutional structure of the OSCE*

The OSCE Chairmanship is held each year by a different participating State, designated by the 57 participating States according to the rule of consensus. It plays a crucial role in the political direction and management of the work of the Organization. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country holding the Chairmanship is the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, assisted by Personal and Special Representatives in specific thematic or geographical areas. Italy held the Chairmanship in 2018, followed by Slovakia (2019), Albania (2020), Sweden (2021), Poland (2022), North Macedonia (2023) and Malta (2024). Finland will hold the Chairmanship in 2025 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

The Chairmanship hosts the OSCE Ministerial Council in its own country, normally at the beginning of December each year, which brings together the Foreign Ministers of the 57 participating States. The highest decision-making body of the Organization is the Meeting of the Heads of State and Government (Summit), which has not met since 2010 (Astana Summit).

The OSCE Secretariat, under the direction of the Secretary General and based in Vienna, is the backbone of the Organization. It provides operational support to the Chairmanship-in-Office, the field Missions and the Autonomous Institutions. It comprises eight Departments: four programmatic (Conflict Prevention Centre - CPC, Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Transnational Threats, Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) and four administrative (Office of the Secretary General, Human Resources, Management and Finance, Internal Oversight). The Office of the Secretary

General includes the Office of Legal Affairs, External Co-operation, the Gender section, the Conference and Language Services and Communication and Media relations section.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is based in Warsaw and has been headed by Matteo Mecacci, from Italy, since December 2020. The Office promotes democracy, the rule of law and human rights, by monitoring elections in participating States, by providing legal advice and practical support to national institutions in the implementation of joint commitments, and by empowering civil society organizations. Every autumn, it organizes in Warsaw the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), the largest human rights conference regularly held in Europe, which brings governments, experts, and civil society representatives around the table.

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is based in The Hague and deals with identifying and addressing the causes, including potential causes, of tensions and conflicts involving national minorities. It is a very special OSCE instrument for conflict prevention through non-public diplomatic interventions.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) is based in Vienna. It observes developments in the media sector within the participating States and draws attention to specific situations of concern (“media watchdog”). On the other hand, it helps the participating States to comply with their commitments, which have been freely undertaken within the OSCE, in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is a distinct organization which represents the “parliamentary dimension” of the OSCE and promotes dialogue on OSCE-related issues between Members of Parliament of the 57 participating States. An International Secretariat, based in Copenhagen, provides administrative and logistical support to the Parliamentary Assembly.

Also linked to the OSCE are: the Joint Consultative Group, a body that deals with issues concerning compliance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1990); and the Open Skies Consultative Commission, an implementing body of the Open Skies Treaty (1992).



## PART II

### Italian Initiatives



## ITALY AND THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

The 1975 Helsinki Final Act first recognized the principle of indivisibility of security in Europe and clearly linked it to security in the Mediterranean, laying the basis for enhanced cooperation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean region. Over the years, the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for Cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia has continued to represent an important platform for dialogue and practical cooperation on key security issues of common concern. It has promoted exchange of ideas, expertise and knowledge on a growing range of transnational and cross-dimensional security challenges, such as organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in human beings and trafficking in cultural property. It has also fostered cooperation to advance economic prosperity and the empowerment of women and youth.

Over the years, Italy has played an important role in maintaining Mediterranean-related security issues high on the agenda of the Organization and in strengthening the OSCE Mediterranean partnership, with the objective to expand and enhance its instruments and tools. A strong impulse in this area came during Italy's Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation Group (then Contact Group) in 2017 and Italy's OSCE Chairmanship in 2018, which culminated with the adoption of the "Ministerial Declaration on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean" at the Milan Ministerial Council. The declaration reiterates that "the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of the Mediterranean region" and calls for further engagement between OSCE participating States and Mediterranean partners in a spirit of genuine partnership, cooperation and ownership.

Italy has also financed a number of extra-budgetary projects aimed at fostering closer cooperation and practical collaboration between the OSCE and Mediterranean partners. Among these, it is worth recalling: the OSCE GEMS Awards aimed at showcasing and support youth, green, and social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region;

ODIHR's training course for young policy advisers aimed at enhancing their professional skills related to policy-making and strengthening their knowledge on OSCE commitments in the field of democratic governance and human rights; training workshops for police and border agents on the topic of combating cross-border trafficking of cultural property; simulation-based training exercises on combating trafficking in human beings, hosted by the Italian Carabinieri's Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza; capacity building and awareness raising activities to better understand and respond to the complex security threats posed by climate change to critical energy infrastructure.

Italy has also supported the establishment of the New-Med Research Network – an independent research and engagement initiative implemented by IAI – Istituto Affari Internazionali in Rome in collaboration with the OSCE and aimed at fostering knowledge and understanding of key security and socio-political challenges across the OSCE and the Mediterranean region.

Building on the research and activities of the New Med Research Network project, in the context of the 2022 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Jordan, Italy organised an event to discuss new challenges and opportunities to foster security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. The event reaffirmed the continued relevance and value of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean that brings together 63 participating States. The OSCE, with its inclusive membership and comprehensive concept of security, is also of particular interest to the countries of the Middle East as a model for regional security arrangements.

Several concrete proposals for strengthening cooperation and dialogue between participating States and Mediterranean partners were also put forward at the event, such as: the establishment of biennial work plans; the identification of thematic coordinators among participating States to support the activities of the Chair of the Mediterranean Group; mainstreaming of participation of Mediterranean partners in OSCE-wide programmatic activities; promoting and strengthening participation of Mediterranean partners in OSCE informal networks of experts; improving the visibility of OSCE activities among partner

PART II

countries, including through the translation of relevant OSCE documents in Arabic.

ITALY'S SUPPORT FOR OSCE ACTIVITIES  
TO COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME  
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS  
THROUGH ASSET RECOVERY

Italy supports and contributes to the OSCE project entitled “*Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional cooperation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use*”, whose objective is to make the fight against organized crime in the Western Balkans more effective.

The project started in 2019 and aims to strengthen the legal and policy framework of five participating States (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) along the entire spectrum of the asset recovery process (from confiscation to re-use for social purposes) through training courses and mentoring programs for judges, prosecutors and civil society organisations. It also aims to enhance regional cooperation through the creation of a regional cooperation platform.

The first objective of the project is to increase the use and effectiveness of criminal assets seizure. To this end, project activities include training of judges and prosecutors, support to the Conference of Prosecutors dealing with organized crime (created in 2016 at the initiative of the OSCE), preparation for examinations to receive international certifications and membership in international professional associations, as well as support for regional cooperation among financial crime investigation units. In this framework, a regional training course organized by the OSCE Secretariat in partnership with Italy's Guardia di Finanza took place in Rome in April 2023.

The second objective is to increase the effectiveness of the management of confiscated resources through regional cooperation, when these are located abroad. To this end, the project provides structural support to the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN) and mentoring services on selected asset management topics, as well as ad-hoc training.

The third objective of the project is the promotion of the social re-

use of assets confiscated from organized crime, with a special focus on the role of civil society, through regional workshops, support for awareness-raising campaigns, and the production of guidelines for the re-use of confiscated assets. In this framework, a regional workshop dedicated to the role of civil society and the social re-use of seized assets was held in Rome in May 2022.

Italy's participation in the project made it possible to enhance and promote the Italian model of confiscation and re-use of seized assets, also thanks to an intense cooperation and involvement of Italian institutions and civil society. For instance, the publication "*Fatti per bene. Il riutilizzo sociale dei beni confiscati alla mafia (numeri, esperienze e proposte)*" of the Italian Association Libera was translated into English and distributed to all OSCE participating States.

The Italian model for combating mafias and organized crime is the result of more than twenty-five years of work and legislative innovations, and it is based on effective cooperation between judiciary, police forces, local administrations and civil society. Almost 40,000 properties since 1982 have been confiscated and made available for social purposes in Italy.

## ITALY-OSCE COLLABORATION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

OSCE participating States have committed to cooperating in combating trafficking in human beings and have adopted over the years multiple decisions to this end. The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its 2005 and 2013 addenda laid the foundation of OSCE action in combating trafficking in human beings and have been enriched and complemented by numerous subsequent Ministerial Council decisions – the last one adopted in Milan under Italy’s Chairmanship in 2018 (“Strengthening efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, including of unaccompanied minors”).

Building on this comprehensive mandate, the OSCE assists participating States through the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and through the work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and of the OSCE field operations. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro served as Special Representative and Coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings from 2010 to 2014.

Italy has always been very supportive of the work of OSCE on combating trafficking in human beings and has closely cooperated with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the development and implementation of targeted training activities dedicated to national institutions and practitioners, such as police forces, labour inspectors, prosecutors and magistrates, but also civil society and social workers. The promotion of a multi-agency and multi-level work, involving the various actors that usually operate in the fight against trafficking, is essential to achieve effective results.

Italy hosted several training activities at the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) of the Carabinieri Corps in Vicenza, an international training centre established in 2005. From 2016 to 2021, more than 600 professionals from 68 countries, including the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation participated in the international training sessions organized by the OSCE at CoESPU. At

the initiative of the Department for Equal Opportunity of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, members of the Italian Armed Forces also benefited from this initiative.

Part of the training is delivered through realistic simulations of concrete cases of labour and sexual exploitation, including of minors. Each simulated scenario highlights the key elements of human trafficking (act, means and purpose). Students of the Master's degree in "Human Rights and Multilevel Governance" of the University of Padua (Department of Political Science and International Studies) contribute to the development and implementation of the simulations, including by acting as the traffickers or the victims in order to make the experience of the participants interactive and as close as possible to their real work requirements.

The project, financially supported by Italy and other OSCE participating States, now serves as a model for other OSCE international (e.g. in Kazakhstan in 2018 and 2019) and national simulations (in Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine in 2021). Its methodology has also been promoted within the United Nations and recognized by the UN Secretary General.

In light of the success of the international simulations developed in Vicenza, OSCE's efforts now increasingly focus on strengthening national training courses, in support of the anti-trafficking departments of the participating States. To this end, in 2022, the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings launched a new project, also supported by Italy, to promote the adoption at the national level of the innovative training methodology developed in Vicenza with the aim "to bring Vicenza to the world".

ITALY AND CONFIDENCE  
AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES  
AT THE OSCE

The OSCE promotes the reduction of the risk of conflict through the development and implementation of measures aimed at ensuring greater transparency, knowledge and mutual trust between participating States, based on the exchange of information and the right to perform inspections.

The main OSCE reference documents on conventional arms control and confidence and security-building measures are the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Open Skies Treaty and the 2011 Vienna Document.

Italy is strongly committed to ensure the implementation of the activities envisaged in these documents, including:

- operational activities conducted by OSCE participating States on the Italian territory (inspections, evaluation visits and observation flights);
- activities conducted by Italy on the territory of other participating States;
- confidence and security-building measures, related *inter alia* to the exchange of military information, risk reduction mechanisms and visits to military facilities.

These activities are implemented by the Arms Control Verification and Counter-Proliferation Office of the III Department of the Defence General Staff, in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE.

During operational activities in Italy, staff from the aforementioned Office assist foreign inspection personnel, ensuring the fulfilment of national obligations and constantly monitoring the compliance with established procedures. Activities abroad are conducted by the same Italian personnel leading or participating in multinational inspection teams with other NATO/EU countries. All activities are generally carried out within the planned timeframes and procedures, in a

## PART II

spirit of effective cooperation between the inspected and inspecting countries, thereby contributing to mutual understanding and confidence-building.

## ITALY'S SUPPORT TO AN OSCE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN GEORGIA

Italy has financially supported the OSCE in the construction of a water management infrastructure in the Georgian village of Tsitsagiaantkari, in the Shida Kartli region, near the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with South Ossetia. This is one of the water management projects promoted by the OSCE in the area, with the aim of building confidence among the conflict-affected communities and promoting post-conflict economic rehabilitation.

The project, which began during Italy's Chairmanship in 2018, was implemented by the OSCE's Centre for Conflict Prevention - CPC, in cooperation with the Municipality of Gori and Zrda, as part of a broader USAID initiative to support the economic development of conflict-affected areas.

Following the 2008 conflict, water sources and distribution networks are located on opposite sides of the ABL and are poorly maintained. Therefore, the majority of Tsitsagiaantkari villagers had no access to drinking water and had to travel to neighbouring villages to stock up on it. The OSCE project funded by Italy enabled 343 village residents (144 families) to have access to drinking water directly in their homes, with clear benefits both in terms of improved living conditions and local economic development opportunities.

The construction of the water infrastructure for the supply and distribution of drinking water in Tsitsagiaantkari took place between July 2020 and April 2021 and was inaugurated in June 2021.

In March 2022, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for the South Caucasus and the CPC carried out a final monitoring mission of the project to confirm the proper functioning of the infrastructure.

Access to water resources by people affected by the conflict is a priority element of the Geneva International Discussions, which bring together the participants and are jointly chaired by the OSCE, the European Union and the United Nations. It is also a regular topic at the meetings of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mecha-

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nism, chaired by the OSCE and the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM).

## ITALY'S COMMITMENT TO COMBATING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE OSCE AREA

As part of Italy's traditional commitment at the international level to protect cultural heritage and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, Italy has played a leading role in promoting and strengthening the OSCE's action and role in this area.

Starting in 2017, in its capacity as Chair of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation Group, and particularly during Italy's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2018, Italy has been instrumental in fostering dialogue at the OSCE on protecting cultural heritage and countering illicit trafficking in cultural property.

In particular, Italy has promoted and continues to strongly support an OSCE project aimed at strengthening the capacities of border guards, law enforcement agencies and other governmental institutions in countering cross-border illicit trafficking in cultural property, including through a greater understanding of the relationship between illicit trafficking in cultural property, organized crime and terrorism.

During the first phase of the project, in the period 2017-2021, the OSCE organized 4 seminars and 11 training workshops dedicated to police and border guards from over 30 participating States and Partners for Cooperation. An online platform was also set up to facilitate communication between experts and resource sharing on the protection of cultural property and the fight against illicit trafficking.

With the aim of continuing and expanding the OSCE's work in this area, the second phase of the project, also supported by Italy, was launched in 2022. The new work programme has three main components:

- organization of an annual meeting of experts dedicated to the topic of illicit trafficking in cultural property, including the development of thematic action plans on an annual basis;
- training courses for strengthening the investigative, risk assessment and counter-trafficking capacities of national agencies;
- strengthening inter-agency cooperation (both at the national

## PART II

and international level) and the sharing of information, including through the mapping of trafficking routes and the institutionalization of the existing pool of experts for technical assistance and rapid response activities (“OSCE Heritage Task Force”).

ITALY AND THE OSCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION  
“RONDINE CITTADELLA DELLA PACE”  
FOR PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE  
IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Building on the work carried out during its Chairmanship in 2018, Italy supported in 2020 an initiative of the association “Rondine Cittadella della Pace” in collaboration with the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) of the OSCE, aimed at promoting the management and preservation of cultural heritage and at fostering cooperation on cultural issues between divided communities in Georgia.

“Rondine Cittadella della Pace” has worked for many years in the South Caucasus with activities aimed at achieving peace and reconciliation and based on an informal and “bottom-up” approach.

By involving and training young experts in cultural heritage, museology and related professions from communities in conflict areas in the South Caucasus, the project entitled “*Support to the Geneva International Discussions. Management and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas*” helped to increase mutual knowledge and trust between communities and to promote a common understanding of how to best integrate cultural heritage protection into conflict management activities.

Both main “ingredients” of this project (youth involvement and heritage protection) play a key role in creating a culture of peace, dialogue, justice, peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation.

## ITALY AND THE WORK OF THE OSCE IN THE FIELD OF CYBERSECURITY

The OSCE has developed and promoted a set of measures to ensure greater transparency, knowledge and mutual trust in the field of cybersecurity, with the aim to ensure an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace and to facilitate the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices among participating States in order to avoid conflicts or their escalation.

Following the establishment of a special OSCE Informal Working Group on cybersecurity, 11 specific confidence-building measures (CBMs) in this field were initially identified (OSCE Permanent Council Decision 1106/2013) and later supplemented by another 5 (OSCE Permanent Council Decision 1202/2016).

These measures promote a collaborative model of cybersecurity governance within and beyond the OSCE region, namely through the involvement of OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation and of other international fora such as the UN.

Italy actively participates in CBM8 for the establishment of a network of cybersecurity contact points among all 57 participating States and CBM14 on public-private partnerships (together with Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, and Sweden). Within CBM14, participating States, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national legislation, promote public-private partnerships and develop mechanisms for the exchange of best practices with regard to responses to common security challenges arising from the use of information technology.

Also thanks to Italy's contribution, in 2023 the OSCE published a report on the importance of public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and highlighting good practices in this area. The report has also been translated into Arabic.

## ITALY AND THE OSCE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Good governance and the fight against corruption are key to economic growth, political stability and security. For this reason, promoting transparency, preventing corruption and combating bribery, money laundering and terrorism financing are among the main activities carried out by the Office of the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and OSCE field missions.

These activities are based on a number of commitments made by OSCE participating States, such as the latest Ministerial Decision No. 6/20 on “Preventing and Combating Corruption through Digitization and Increased Transparency” adopted at the 2020 Tirana Ministerial Council and actively supported by Italy.

As OSCE Chairmanship in 2018, Italy established the role of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for the fight against corruption, with the aim to assist participating States in implementing their commitments on good governance and anti-corruption and to help them improve their national legislation and regulations. Prof. Paola Severino was appointed by Italy to serve as first Special Representative for the fight against corruption and held the position from 2018 to 2020.

Special Representative Severino facilitated regional dialogue and the exchange of best practices in the OSCE region, including through the organization of high-level Conferences such as the one in Rome in November 2018 and the one in Tirana in July 2020.

She also carried out numerous country visits and facilitated the implementation of specific assistance and training programmes, like the extra-budgetary project “*Strengthening anti-corruption reform in Armenia*”, supported by Italy and aimed at providing targeted policy, expert advocacy and capacity-building assistance to Armenia in the fight against corruption.

Italy has also supported since 2020 a project initiated by the OSCE Presence in Albania to promote greater transparency and accountability in the public procurement system of Albania. In collaboration with the Albanian Public Procurement Agency, the Albanian School of

Public Administration and other administrations, the project supports the establishment of a “certified training curriculum” on public procurement, to strengthen the planning, operation and monitoring of public procurement procedures.

Within the project, the OSCE Presence in Albania also supports the mapping of corruption risks in two crucial sectors: health and construction, where increased digitalization and centralization of the public procurement system can have a significant positive impact on reducing corrupt practices.

Italy has also recently contributed to the OSCE extra-budgetary project “*Supporting Anti-corruption Efforts of the Government of Moldova*” which aims to strengthen Moldova’s anti-corruption legislative and regulatory frameworks; enhance the ability of relevant national institutions to investigate corruption crimes, as well as to seize and confiscate corruption proceeds; and increase civil society engagement through the establishment of an “Integrity Lab”.

ITALY'S COMMITMENT AT THE OSCE  
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The 2021 Stockholm Ministerial Council decision on “Strengthening cooperation to address the challenges caused by climate change” has given the OSCE a solid mandate to support participating States in the fight against climate change, both in terms of cross-regional exchange of best practices and lessons learned and in terms of multi-stakeholder engagement. The Decision is the first official OSCE document to emphasize that the effects of climate change can negatively impact prosperity, stability, and security in the OSCE area and to encourage participating States to cooperate in this sector.

Italy fully supports the work of the OSCE in the fight against climate change. Indeed, the added value of the OSCE lies in its ability to bring together participating States from different regions but with similar challenges, as well as representatives from international organizations, national and local authorities and civil society organizations, with the aim to share experience, address common challenges and strengthen regional security.

Building on a previous pilot project, the Office of the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities launched in 2020 the extra-budgetary project “*Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia*” to provide assistance to participating States in the fight against climate change. Italy is among the main contributors to the project, alongside other participating States.

The project aims to enhance the understanding of security risks due to climate change, through a participatory and multi-stakeholder process that has allowed the mapping of climate risk areas (so-called “hotspots”) in all OSCE regions. The project also aims to promote the development of cross-border cooperation activities and adaptation strategies for some of the identified hotspots, in order to reduce the security implications of climate change.

Italy has also contributed to a new OSCE project entitled “*Mitigating Climate Change Threats to Critical Energy*” aimed at supporting

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OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation, including in the Mediterranean region, in their efforts to prevent and mitigate climate change threats to energy infrastructure. The project aims in particular to collect and share reliable data and analyses on the impact of climate change on energy security, and to foster climate preparedness and regional cooperation through evidence-based decision-making.

ITALY'S SUPPORT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT  
OF WOMEN IN THE ENERGY SECTOR  
IN CENTRAL ASIA

In line with its international action to protect and promote women's rights, Italy is strongly committed within the OSCE to promote the active participation of women in the energy sector as an essential element of a fair and sustainable energy transition. Thanks to Italy's financial support, the OSCE launched in 2021 the project "*Promoting women's economic empowerment in the energy sector for energy security and sustainability in Central Asia*".

The energy sector remains one of the most gender-imbalanced economic sectors, both globally and in Central Asia. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), women represent only 22% of the workforce in the energy sector and hold 13.9% of the available top positions.

For this reason, the project aims to strengthen the role of Central Asian women in the energy sector and to provide them with the skills and knowledge needed to embark on and develop successful professional careers. To this end, the OSCE has created the first regional mentoring program for women in the energy sector, supporting 30 Central Asian women in their professional journeys, helping them achieve leadership positions, and encouraging the participation of young women through training and networking initiatives, as well as educational visits.

The project also helps governments and local companies to achieve gender equality in the energy sector and integrate the voices and needs of women into their energy policies, through the collection of disaggregated data on female employment in the energy sector and the analysis of the employment potential of renewable energies in Central Asia by 2050. Promoting a workforce that allows for diversity and the inclusion of women is indeed essential to ensure innovation, facilitate the energy transition and combat climate change.

## ITALY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

Combating Anti-Semitism is one of the priority areas of the mandate of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In close cooperation with civil society, ODIHR works to highlight manifestations of Anti-Semitism and provides advice to participating States on how to counter them. For example, the Office publishes an annual hate crime report, compiling data from the OSCE region on incidents of hate crimes, disaggregated by bias motivation, including Anti-Semitism.

The OSCE has also published a wide collection of teaching materials to help teachers deal with Anti-Semitism in schools. These handbooks provide, for instance, suggestions on how to tackle difficult questions or challenging student behaviours, as well as information on additional reading material for further studies. They are rich in data and definitions, thereby enabling students in middle and high schools to better understand the history and practices of Judaism, the historical roots of Anti-Semitism, and to combat intolerance and violence, including online.

In line with the priority attributed to the fight against Anti-Semitism at the national level, Italy has supported the publication in Italian of a large number of ODIHR handbooks (“teaching aids”), addressing the following topics:

1. Jews and Judaism
2. Overcoming unconscious prejudices
3. Tackling stereotypes and anti-Semitic preconceptions
4. Questioning conspiracy theories
5. Teaching what Anti-Semitism is through the teaching of the Shoah
6. Addressing the denial, distortion and trivialisation of the Shoah
7. Anti-Semitism and national remembrance
8. Dealing with Anti-Semitic incidents
9. Dealing with Anti-Semitism online
10. Anti-Semitism and the situation in the Middle East

ODIHR handbooks in Italian were officially presented in Novem-

#### ITALIAN INITIATIVES

ber 2021 in Rome by the Italian Minister of Education and the ODHIR Director, Matteo Mecacci, together with new national guidelines on addressing Anti-Semitism in schools.

## ITALY'S SUPPORT FOR OSCE ACTIVITIES ON PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Human rights defenders are people who, either individually or with others, act in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) supports OSCE participating States in fulfilling their human dimension commitments, including those related to the protection of human rights defenders, and it works with civil society organizations to strengthen their capacity to promote human rights and monitor human rights abuses and violations.

In 2014, following a broad consultation process, ODIHR published the Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The Guidelines do not set new standards or create special rights but seek to help participating States in protecting those who act in favour of human rights, by promoting OSCE commitments and international human rights instruments.

Italy supported the translation of the Guidelines into Italian, with the aim of disseminating them and making them better known. Italy also actively took part in the first assessment cycle on the implementation of the Guidelines launched by ODIHR in 2018 with the objective of examining the situation of human rights defenders in the OSCE area.

Italy financially supports the work of ODIHR in favour of civil society organizations active in the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights defenders in exile.

Among the various initiatives promoted in this area, the website FreedomLab is a repository of training materials, online courses and digital tools on various aspects of the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations. Such material aims at improving the monitoring of abuses and violations, protecting the (digital) security of human rights defenders, and supporting the organization of activities upholding human rights.

The website also offers an online training course on the skills and techniques required to interview people who have witnessed or sur-

vived abuses and violations of human rights, while respecting the needs of both interviewers and interviewees (trauma-informed interviewing). The training course was developed by ODIHR in response to the needs of civil society organizations monitoring violations committed during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Within the project, ODIHR has also developed and promoted an educational game – called Starlight Stadium – aimed at teaching human rights defenders about the human rights monitoring methodology. Through an interactive and engaging storyboard, players can learn about the roles and responsibilities of human rights defenders.

CYCLE OF SEMINARS ON THE OSCE  
FOR ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES ORGANIZED  
BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE OSCE

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE, in collaboration with a member of Italian University, has organized a cycle of seminars entitled: *“The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as a model for 21st century multilateral regional diplomacy”*.

The initiative aims to promote the knowledge of the role and activities of the OSCE and, thanks to its pragmatic approach, to foster a better understanding of certain aspects and tools of multilateral diplomacy. The cycle of seminars, which has reached its third edition in 2024, consists of 20 hours of training in virtual format, divided into lectures on the functioning of the OSCE and workshops/interactive sessions on specific topics related to the activities of the Organization (“case studies”).

All the lectures are given by diplomats of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE and of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, by Italian officials serving at the OSCE, by university professors and by experts of the Organization. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the seminars and ask questions. Reading material and background readings are made available before each seminar.

150 students from thirteen Italian universities and the University of San Marino attended the first two editions of the cycle of seminars.



## PART III

### Statements by Italian Delegations at OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings (2000-2023)\*

\* Italian is one the six official languages of the OSCE. All Statements were delivered in Italian.



30<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
SKOPJE, 30 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2023.  
STATEMENT BY MS. MARIA TRIPODI,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,  
Esteemed colleagues,

In aligning myself with the statement made by the European Union, I should like first of all to congratulate North Macedonia for its efforts in leading the Organization during these difficult times marked by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the continued Russian obstruction of the orderly functioning of the OSCE.

Despite this, the OSCE has remained faithful to its fundamental values and has continued to effectively implement its mandate to protect the security of our countries and citizens.

Italy reiterates its strongest condemnation of the war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine, with the complicity of Belarus – an unprovoked, unjustified and illegitimate war that for 21 long months has been causing death, destruction and unspeakable suffering to the Ukrainian people, with negative consequences for the security of the European continent and the entire OSCE area, and aggravating the economic vulnerabilities and food insecurity of many countries in the rest of the world.

We reaffirm our steadfast commitment to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. A just and lasting peace can be achieved only through the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

Italy is committed to safeguarding the OSCE as one of the pillars of the rules-based European security order. Thanks in part to our commitment, the Organization has shown great resilience since 24 February 2022 and has been able to adapt to the new circumstances.

We are very pleased that it proved possible to reach consensus on entrusting Malta with the OSCE Chairmanship for 2024, so as to ensure the truly vital function of the Organization's leadership during the year that will begin in just a month's time. We assure our Maltese friends of our complete and unwavering support as they carry out the delicate task ahead of them. At the same time, we regret the unjustified opposition of some participating States to Estonia's valid candidature and thank it for the high sense of responsibility that it has demonstrated.

Very good work has been done by the Secretary General and the heads of the Autonomous Institutions in conformity with their respective mandates in circumstances that were indeed difficult both in political and in organizational terms. We sincerely thank them for their excellent work and very much hope that all their mandates will be renewed so as to ensure the continuity of functions that the Organization needs.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is undeniable that the OSCE is going through a difficult and sensitive phase politically and in terms of its functioning. The consensus rule is being abused and instrumentalized, without taking into account what could be irreparable consequences for the proper functioning of the Organization.

We note with great regret that it has not been possible to approve a Unified Budget since 2021. The OSCE must be able to count on adequate financial resources.

As we look ahead to the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025, I should like to reaffirm Italy's unwavering support for the OSCE and the fundamental principles and commitments on which it is based.

These principles and commitments are non-negotiable and not open to revision or reinterpretation.

The OSCE also possesses an *acquis*, built up over more than 50 years of work, on issues that will be crucial at the end of the conflict, such as confidence-building measures, arms control and, above all, the promotion of human rights, with a view to a holistic principle of security.

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Italy, which is among the leading contributors to the OSCE in financial terms and in terms of personnel, will continue to commit itself with conviction and consistency to the common good of the Organization. We strongly urge all participating States to do the same.

29<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
ŁÓDŹ, 1-2 DECEMBER 2022.  
STATEMENT BY MR. GIORGIO SILLI,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY.

Minister Rau,  
Esteemed colleagues,

First of all, I should like to congratulate the Polish Chairmanship for its continued commitment to steering our Organization in an extremely difficult year.

A year marked by Russia's unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which shook the foundations of the rules-based international order and put European and global peace and security at risk.

Italy condemns this war in the strongest terms and once again calls on Russia to end it immediately and withdraw all its forces and military equipment. Italy also reiterates its call on the Belarusian authorities to stop supporting Russia's war of aggression.

Italy has supported and will continue to support the brave people of Ukraine who are resisting Russia's invasion. We cannot accept this war of aggression and the violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign nation.

The war crimes committed against the Ukrainian population and the destruction of civilian infrastructure are a flagrant breach of international law. The OSCE has been able to use the tools at its disposal through the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the invocation of the Moscow Mechanism to contribute significantly to the international community's efforts to ensure accountability for crimes committed.

The war has violated the most fundamental principles on which our Organization is founded, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act: the inviolability of frontiers, the territorial integrity of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Adherence to these principles must be restored without exception and without hesitation.

The same applies to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Astana Final Document 2010 categorically and irrevocably reaffirms that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of States. There is an intrinsic link between respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and common security. We express great appreciation for the ODIHR and all the work it does to promote human rights and the rule of law.

It is undeniable that the war has also had an impact on our Organization, both at the political level and at the operational level. The OSCE operates on the basis of the consensus rule, which safeguards the legitimate interests of each participating State. However, consensus should not be abused, particularly when decisions of an institutional nature have to be taken that affect the Organization's functioning. Mutual vetoes and maximalist positions have so far prevented the adoption of the budget for 2022, which has created considerable operational difficulties. Such approaches are not acceptable. The Unified Budget for 2023 must be approved as soon as possible and a common agreement must be reached on the Chairmanship for 2024.

The OSCE is the only regional organization that unites North America, Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia – it is therefore crucial to preserve it in these difficult times. We need the OSCE for the principles it embodies, adherence to which is the only guarantee of stability and security for our citizens. We need it for the activities of the autonomous institutions that help participating States implement their commitments. We need it for the field operations, which do work that is particularly appreciated by host countries. Italy firmly believes in these principles, supports the work of the autonomous institutions and the field operations and intends to continue its efforts to safeguard the Organization's rich acquis.

Finally, I should like to wish North Macedonia's incoming Chairmanship every success in 2023 and assure it of Italy's full cooperation going forward. Thank you for your attention.

28<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
STOCKHOLM, 2-3 DECEMBER 2021.  
STATEMENT BY MR. BENEDETTO DELLA VEDOVA,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY

Minister Linde,  
Esteemed colleagues,

I should first of all like to congratulate the Swedish Chairmanship for its invaluable work and great dedication during a difficult year.

The hopes expressed in 2020 that the pandemic would serve as a catalyst of new incentives for collaboration and multilateralism have unfortunately not been borne out by the reality of international relations, even at the OSCE.

The failure to achieve consensus on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting – the Swedish Chairmanship’s efforts notwithstanding – and the delay in adopting the Unified Budget are troubling signs of a gradual moving away from the Helsinki spirit, whose 50th anniversary we shall be celebrating in 2025.

And looking ahead to 2025, while congratulating Finland for its dedication in taking on the Chairmanship’s responsibilities, I cannot but note and agree as to the scale and complexity of the challenges lying before us.

Allow me also to express my regret over the failure to reach consensus on Estonia’s candidature for 2024.

Turning to the present and to Ukraine, the increase in ceasefire violations, the difficulties within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group, the growing constraints on the deployment of monitors and, last but not least, the failure to renew the mandate of the Observer Mission on the Russian-Ukrainian border – all these are evidence of a political stalemate that gives cause for concern and that is nullifying the participating States’ dedication and efforts, including financial efforts.

It is therefore essential to regain the conditions for a negotiated

way out of the crisis, ensuring full implementation of the Minsk agreements by all the parties and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine while seeking to alleviate the tragic humanitarian situation.

Despite these difficulties, Italy believes that the OSCE should remain a key actor with regard to the conflict in and around Ukraine and in the promotion of political solutions to what are referred to as protracted conflicts.

We hope that the trilateral agreement of November 2020 on Nagorno-Karabakh can pave the way for the stabilization of the region and the building of peace there – a goal with regard to which we support the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group and the OSCE.

Moreover, Italy confirms its commitment to a negotiated settlement of the conflicts in Georgia and Transdniestria, hoping, in the first case, for a solution in the framework of the Geneva International Discussions that respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, and, in the second case, for the conditions to be created that would enable the Permanent Conference in the “5+2” format to be convened as soon as possible.

We remain deeply concerned about the ongoing clampdown on the opposition and civil society in Belarus and reiterate our support for the measures adopted so far at the OSCE to facilitate dialogue and a political solution to the crisis.

We cannot forget, though, about the migrant crisis on the Belarusian border – a tragedy that reminds us of how the topic of migration, in all its aspects, is calling for growing attention, also on the OSCE’s agenda.

The migration emergency, climate and sustainable development should be accorded ever greater space in the dialogue with our Mediterranean and Asian partners.

The crisis in Afghanistan has dramatically revived the need for cooperative responses to transnational threats. I take this opportunity to welcome the initiative promoted by the Chairmanship and the Secretary General for the launching of an OSCE Framework for Response in relation to Afghanistan.

The dramatic impact of security threats on the most vulnerable social groups, particularly on women – an impact that has been aggra-

vated by the pandemic – should not be forgotten. The Swedish Chairmanship therefore should be applauded for having given due prominence to the need to promote gender perspectives in the three dimensions.

Among these, the human dimension remains an essential pillar of our security and a founding principle of the OSCE. The proficiency in election observation built up by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as reflected in the fact that it recently conducted its 400th mission in 30 years, remains a valuable tool that needs to be protected as part of more general support for this institution's autonomy. Italy avails itself of the ODIHR's technical assistance, and we encourage all the participating States to view such assistance in a favourable light.

However, we harbour growing concerns about the continued erosion of the European security architecture, and for that reason we remain convinced of the need to ensure the full implementation of the agreements that form its bedrock, including the Treaty on Open Skies.

Given the profound transformation of the geostrategic context and the technological paradigm shift, we believe at the same time that there is an urgent need to update the verification and control instruments, starting with serious negotiations for modernization of the Vienna Document on the basis of the existing proposals.

Our ambitious goals require adequate resources. Allow me at this point to make a heartfelt appeal for the prompt adoption of the Organization's budget, and also for a constructive discussion on the projects for reforming the financial cycle and revising the Scales of Contributions to make them fairer.

In closing, I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for 2022 to the incoming Polish Chairmanship and to assure it of Italy's full cooperation going forward.

Thank you.

PART III

27<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
TIRANA, 3-4 DECEMBER 2020,  
BY VIDEOCONFERENCE.  
STATEMENT BY MS MARINA SERENI,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,  
Dear colleagues,

I congratulate the Chairperson-in-Office, Prime Minister Edi Rama, on the exceptional work he has carried out in a complicated year, and I wish every success to the incoming Swedish Chairmanship.

Thirty years ago, the Charter of Paris anticipated the start of an era of peace and security for Europe.

Today more than ever, in the context of a pandemic and worrying security scenarios, we have to ask ourselves how to revitalize the “spirit of Helsinki”. The deterioration of the conditions for dialogue on the Organization’s major issues requires above all an effort to rebuild trust.

For six years now, the OSCE has been promoting the objective of a stable and lasting solution to the Ukrainian crisis through the Special Monitoring Mission and the Trilateral Contact Group. Over the past year we have seen positive signs for a political way out of the crisis.

We hope that through political dialogue in the Trilateral Contact Group we can construct a path for negotiation towards a solution that sees all parties fully implementing the Minsk agreements with respect for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The OSCE also remains a key player in promoting political solutions to so-called “protracted conflicts”.

We have witnessed the tragedy of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh with sorrow and welcomed the ceasefire with relief. It is now time for all of us to contribute to tackling the humanitarian emergency. Italy is already doing its part.

We hope that the agreements reached will pave the way for stabili-

zation and pacification of the area, a process in which the role of the OSCE will be decisive.

Italy also confirms its commitment to a negotiated settlement of the crises in Georgia and Transdniestria.

In this evolving framework, faced with the challenges to multilateralism, we are concerned about the progressive erosion of the European security architecture. The general system of conventional arms control in Europe, inherited from the end of the Cold War, has been greatly weakened.

We must ensure full implementation of the relevant agreements, including the Treaty on Open Skies.

There is also an urgent need to update conventional arms control instruments as well as confidence-building and transparency measures by embarking on constructive negotiation to modernize the Vienna Document.

Dear colleagues,

Unilateral or national solutions in complicated situations have proved ineffective. The COVID-19 pandemic has fostered a new awareness of the need for a multilateral and cooperative approach to countering common security challenges.

This also applies to the economic and environmental dimension. We cannot ignore the increasingly close link between security and climate, which has an impact on stability in the Mediterranean as well, as can also be seen in the sixth edition of the Mediterranean Dialogues taking place at the moment, which Italy organized this year in virtual mode.

Climate, migration, and sustainable development must also become priorities in cooperation with our partners on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. These are strands of collaboration on which we are ready to continue to work.

The OSCE is also a successful model for cooperative responses to transnational threats such as terrorism and violent extremism, cyberattacks, corruption, organized crime, trafficking in human beings and illicit trafficking, including trafficking in cultural goods.

In particular, we have greatly appreciated the attention paid by the

Albanian Chairmanship to the fight against corruption and organized crime, in the year of the 20th anniversary of the Palermo Convention.

These phenomena have a dramatic impact in particular on the most vulnerable social groups.

In that context, we are convinced that the inclusion of women helps to improve the effectiveness of security policies. For that reason, Italy considers it essential to promote gender perspectives in all three OSCE dimensions.

Of these, the third dimension – the human dimension – continues to represent a pillar of the European security architecture and a founding principle of the Organization. The OSCE's experience in election monitoring, which has also benefited from the Italian contribution, remains a valuable tool to be protected.

I should also like to recall in this context the Italian support for the OSCE's offer to facilitate dialogue between the Government and opposition in Belarus and to reiterate our concern about the ongoing repression in the country and the risks of regional destabilization.

The relaunch of the cooperative security instruments in the region as we have described it up to now certainly requires adequate resources. I therefore advocate the timely adoption of the Organization's budget and a constructive discussion on a more equitable reform of the scales of contributions.

Finally, I should like to congratulate the Albanian Chairmanship on the excellent work in achieving consensus on the filling of the Organization's top positions again.

In this way, we will revive together the "wind of Helsinki".

Thank you for your attention.

26<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BRATISLAVA, 5-6 DECEMBER 2019.  
STATEMENT BY MS MARINA SERENI,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,  
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,  
Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues,

I should like first of all to congratulate the Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Miroslav Lajčák, on his outstanding work during the course of this year.

I thank the future Albanian Chairmanship for its collaboration in the Troika and wish the authorities in Tirana every success for 2020. I should also like to thank the colleagues in the Asian Contact Group partner countries for their support for our Chairmanship of this Group.

In the course of the discussion, I appreciated the reference to the principles and values of the OSCE, which bears witness to the aspiration of all participating States to give new impetus, strength and topicality to the “spirit of Helsinki”.

In that context, we support the Appeal by Mr. Lajčák regarding the need to promote joint efforts to increase commitment in that direction.

We must take inspiration from the words of Mr. Lajčák in favour of effective multilateralism. Our principles must be respected, not abused. For example, the consensus rule, which guides our work in the OSCE, should be a strength and not a weakness. If used sensibly and not tactically, consensus can strengthen the decisions taken in our Organization and make them truly effective.

Italy regards unceasing commitment by all participating States to inclusive dialogue and full sharing of responsibilities to be fundamental.

We believe that we should give priority to opportunities for convergence and should also work to intensify collaboration with our Asian and Mediterranean Partners. We have proposed specific measures with that in mind that we hope will be supported by all participating States.

Italy has supported and is committed to continuing to support the search by the OSCE for a stable and lasting solution to the Ukrainian crisis.

While remaining very concerned about the situation on the ground, we cannot fail to welcome the latest developments. The hope remains strong that political dialogue – both in the “Normandy format” and in the Trilateral Contact Group – will finally make it possible to build a sustainable negotiating path out of the crisis, with the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and with respect for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We believe that the OSCE remains a key player in promoting negotiated solutions and political openings, also with regard to negotiated settlements of the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia and the Transdniestrian issue.

Alongside traditional conflicts, we must continue to pay the utmost attention to the many “non-traditional” security challenges, strengthening all three dimensions on which the OSCE concept of “comprehensive security” is based.

We must promote joint responses based on a holistic approach to the challenges posed by transnational threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, corruption, organized crime and trafficking in human beings and cultural goods.

The impact of digital and energy transformation and climate change on collective security is clear. We therefore need to step up our commitment to the economic and environmental dimension.

The human dimension is a fundamental pillar of the European security architecture. The rule of law, democracy and respect for the fundamental rights of the individual are of paramount importance here.

In that context, we shall continue, as we did this year as chair of the relevant Informal Working Group, to advocate broader and more structured participation by civil society in OSCE events.

We share the strong concern at the gradual erosion of the European security architecture. There is an urgent need to reverse this trend through the full implementation and maximum strengthening of the existing instruments, including the modernization of the Vienna Document. With reference to the latter, we encourage all participating States to embark on serious discussion on the basis of existing proposals.

I should also stress the value of the Structured Dialogue on current challenges as a means of creating the conditions for a relaunch of negotiations on conventional arms control.

Our objective, I repeat, is to return to responsible cooperative security management as a contribution to peace and stability, while respecting the fundamental principles underlying the OSCE.

I firmly believe that today's meeting could offer a further opportunity for renewed commitment by all of us. I should like to conclude by congratulating Sweden and Poland on the approval of their candidacies for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2021 and 2022.

Thank you.

25<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
MILAN, 6-7 DECEMBER 2018.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ENZO MOAVERO MILANESI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome you here in Milan, on the occasion of the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council, in my capacity as the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization.

It has been a great honour for me to carry out this task in the year in which Italy assumed for the second time, after 1994, the Chairmanship of our Organization. This is a prestigious commitment, which we have accepted in a spirit of service, in the knowledge that 57 countries have chosen Italy as their leader. This means that our country is considered an example of vision, balance, and fairness in international relations.

First of all, let me thank the Ministers of Austria and Slovakia for their valuable support to the Italian Presidency within the Troika. I would certainly like to thank the Secretariat and all the OSCE Autonomous Institutions (the ODIHR, the Representative of Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities) for the excellent cooperation that has underpinned Italy's efforts during this year.

Finally, I would like to thank all participating States and Partner Countries for the cooperation, support, and trust that they have accorded us, as they have contributed to making the motto of the 2018 Italian Presidency – “Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility” – a collective commitment to the much-needed revival of the Helsinki spirit.

We live in a complex era, in which we are witnessing the progressive erosion of multilateral diplomacy and the fragmentation of foreign policies. In this context, our Organization – the largest regional security Organization in the world, born in times far more difficult than the

present ones – represents, due to its nature, its peculiarities and its inclusive character, a unique opportunity to look to the future in a more positive way. This is the road to the new Helsinki, to that new OSCE that we must all build together, regardless of who will preside over it.

It is with this belief that we have tried, throughout this year, not to ever abandon the high road of inclusive dialogue and shared responsibility, by promoting opportunities for discussion, rather than confrontation, and a constant pursuit of common goals, in the knowledge that a lasting and sustainable peace requires the commitment of each of us.

The OSCE cannot meet today's security challenges without the cooperation and support of all participating States and its Partners, whose contributions broaden our horizons and capacity for action.

Horizons and capacities for action that cannot ignore the obvious, but necessary, consideration that the OSCE overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. It is, therefore, no coincidence that, since the start of our Chairmanship, we have stressed the need to direct the OSCE's attention also to the Mediterranean and to the challenges coming from the southern shore, strengthening action on the "Mediterranean dimension". Indeed, we strongly believe that Euro-Mediterranean security is indivisible and complementary to Euro-Asian and Euro-Atlantic security. We have found this link since the Helsinki Final Act, at the origins of our Organization, and we see it reaffirmed, with increasing emphasis, in successive passages of the common path that has brought us to Milan today.

The Mediterranean is crossed daily by migratory flows coming especially from Africa, increasingly from Sub-saharan Africa. These are epochal, dramatic flows, often characterized by tragedies: tragedies that we see when they occur in a shipwreck and that we do not see when they occur in the desert. They are tragedies that involve people moving in search of a better future, a refuge from liberticidal regimes or conflicts.

Managing these flows is a matter of shared responsibility even for countries that do not directly border the Mediterranean. A true collective responsibility, whose sharing must be sincere and authentic, free of purely national reservations and as broad as possible.

Looking at the key issues on the OSCE agenda, the Italian Presidency has had among its priorities the quest for a stable and lasting so-

lution to the Ukrainian crisis, in line with the principles and commitments of the Organization. We have worked with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, towards the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and with support for the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission.

To this end, we support the efforts of the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group, with which we have established an intense channel of consultation, fully involving the coordinators of the sub-working groups to confirm political support for a complex and articulated exercise.

With regard to the most recent events in the Azov Sea and Kerch Strait area, we reiterate our appeal to all parties to contribute through political and diplomatic means to defuse tensions in order to avoid further risks of destabilization in the region and to resolve disputes by peaceful means, in full compliance with international law and bilateral agreements between the parties, with the principles and commitments enshrined in the OSCE framework, and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries.

The Organization remains at the disposal of the States involved to provide its good offices in order to facilitate a diplomatic settlement of the crisis through all OSCE instruments, as well as the adoption of mutual confidence-building measures, provided, of course, that there is a clear will expressed by the parties to that effect.

We intensified our efforts to promote the settlement of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, reaffirming the Italian Presidency's commitment to encouraging a negotiated solution to both the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the conflict in Georgia, while respecting the principle of the territorial integrity of States.

With regard to the Transdniestrian settlement process, we are pleased to have contributed to creating the conditions for the signing, in May, of the Rome Protocol, on the occasion of the Permanent Conference in the 5+2 format (Moldova, Transnistria, OSCE, Ukraine, Russia, plus the European Union and the United States as observers).

Then we turned our attention to the many transnational challenges affecting the OSCE area: terrorism, cyber-attacks, corruption, organized crime, illegal trafficking, including of cultural goods. Challenges that affect not only international relations, but the security and well-

being of our societies, and that can only be addressed, and overcome, by uniting our efforts, working together, and constantly seeking dialogue.

During our Chairmanship, we have promoted important opportunities for discussion on issues that are fundamental to our security: in May, at the OSCE Conference against Terrorism, we addressed the phenomenon of the return of foreign terrorist fighters; in September, at the Conference on Cyber Security, we discussed how to implement the important confidence-building measures adopted by the OSCE in previous years; and in November, at the International Conference on Combating Corruption in the Digital Age, we discussed the risks but also the possibilities offered by new technologies in the repression of this phenomenon.

Dear Colleagues,

The Italian Chairmanship has been constantly working to strengthen all three security dimensions underlying the concept of comprehensive security within the OSCE. I refer to the politico-military dimension, the economic-environmental dimension, and the human dimension.

In the politico-military dimension, we have pursued the goal of reaffirming existing cooperative security instruments and reducing the risks of incidents and possible misunderstandings, which, as we know, can lead to the risk of dangerous escalations. We believe that the Structured Dialogue on Current and Future Challenges to European Security has restored dynamism to the politico-military dimension and has already helped to re-establish a frank, constructive and substantive debate even on sensitive and controversial issues. We are convinced that this exercise must continue in the future, on an increasingly concrete and less ideological basis, and that one of its objectives may also be to relaunch conventional arms control.

We cannot accept the trend towards a gradual erosion of the European security architecture, but must, on the contrary, multiply our efforts to restore trust, transparency, and cooperation in the politico-military sphere: the pillars that have underpinned our security since the CSCE and continue to be fundamental elements for peace in Europe.

Within the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, a broad consensus has emerged on the opportunity, which we have promoted, to initiate dialogue and cooperation on a new, yet very important, topic such as the digital transformation of the economic system and its implications for our stability and security. We have also promoted significant initiatives to strengthen the work of the Organization in preventing and combating corruption as well as in developing human capital, with a primary focus on education and continuous training.

In addition to political-military and economic-environmental security, we have never ceased to promote the rule of law, democracy, and respect for the fundamental rights of the individual in the OSCE area.

The human dimension is a fundamental pillar of the European security architecture. There is an indisputable link between the protection of fundamental rights and support for peace, security, and prosperity. The OSCE countries have recognized this and are mutually committed to finding opportunities for confrontation and dialogue to strengthen respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

As Chairmanship, we strongly wanted to promote a constructive dialogue on some of the main challenges to the protection of fundamental rights in the OSCE area, with a special focus on freedom of the press and safety of journalists, in addition to the need to actively promote the participation of women in political and public life, and to combat all forms of violence against them. We also paid great attention to combating all forms of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance, including on religious grounds. I recall, in this regard, the Conference on Combating anti-Semitism, which in fact marked the start of our Presidency in January, and the Conference on Combating All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination, including on a Religious Basis, with a focus on discrimination against Christians and Muslims, which we organized in October.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our action as Chairmanship-in-Office has been inspired by a positive and long-term vision, underpinned by our firm belief in the role of the OSCE.

It is precisely in this spirit – which I dare to call “of service” to the Organization – and with this in mind, that I would like to recall that, in the course of this year, the Chairmanship has made more than two million euros available to OSCE structures to finance more than 45 extra-budgetary projects across all the dimensions of security in which this Organization operates. We are convinced that, also through the funding of these projects, our Presidency can leave a positive, lasting, and concrete imprint on the work of this Organization.

I hope that this vision will be endorsed by all of you, in this forum in which we are called upon to adopt important decisions and declarations by consensus, with the aim of strengthening the commitments undertaken by the participating States and, at the same time, setting out a virtuous path for the future of our Organization.

The package of texts that we have presented gathers the requests of a very large part of the membership. It is the result of an ongoing dialogue aimed at fully sharing common objectives.

I would, therefore, like to appeal to the commitment and sense of responsibility of each one of us to ensure synergy and convergence to support the efforts of the Chairmanship-in-Office to build the necessary consensus. By working together to achieve common goals and interests, we will – I am sure – ensure the full success of the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council.

24<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
VIENNA, 7-8 DECEMBER 2017.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ANGELINO ALFANO,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Dear colleagues,

It has been an intense and complicated year, in which we have been able to rely on the careful and responsible guidance of the Austrian Chairmanship, which I congratulate for the commitment and capabilities it has demonstrated in these difficult and tricky months.

It is a pleasure to return to the OSCE, which is one of the great “homes” of global multilateralism.

Today more than ever, it is vital to continue along the path of constructive dialogue based on multilateralism.

I am thinking of Ukraine, where a war has been going on for four years, which can only be resolved through the full application of the Minsk agreements. Despite the commitments undertaken by the parties, the ceasefire is being violated and the number of civilian victims rising, be it through the use of heavy weapons or on account of the scourge of mines.

The Special Monitoring Mission is carrying out exceptional work in difficult conditions to prevent an escalation of hostilities. This year a monitor paid with his life for his commitment to peace. This is an unacceptable tragedy. The Mission must be able to carry out all its functions in safety with the genuine support of all.

Apart from Ukraine, we must continue our engagement in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdniestria to find a peaceful and sustainable settlement of the conflicts there in accordance with international law. It is thus essential for the OSCE to continue to support the existing negotiating formats.

In the politico-military dimension there is an urgent need for greater transparency and predictability. More dialogue and trust are the means that will enable us to share more information and avoid dangerous misunderstandings.

Courage is needed to look beyond the issues of the day and explore new ideas and more ambitious pathways, such as the Structured Dialogue, which I hope will provide the basis for the relaunching of conventional arms control.

The cooperative security on which the OSCE is based is a “common good” that must be defended in many ways, including through the adoption of the budget. As you know, Italy chairs the budget negotiations, which we aim to conclude as soon as possible.

The same applies to the human dimension, which is all too frequently attacked. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law has a bearing on our security. There is no place in this Organization for discrimination and intolerance or for an arbitrary and selective interpretation of universal principles. I would recall that one of the first events during the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in 2018 will be an international conference on combating anti-Semitism. And we are helped in facing up to the challenge of defending the human rights of all by the outstanding work of the Organization’s autonomous institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

At the same time, the economic and environmental dimension has untapped potential that could be developed to provide new opportunities for cooperation.

We have already seen good examples of the way our actions have been developed for the “common good” of all, such as our response to transnational threats, which demonstrates our commitment to combating terrorism and to addressing the new threat to cybersecurity.

We have introduced the issue of migration, which is even more relevant from the point of view of security. I am thinking of the risk of returning foreign fighters, who after their defeat in Iraq and Syria are attempting to gain a foothold in North Africa and Europe.

The challenges we face today have no borders and it is therefore essential to look beyond our national frontiers and seek new forms of cooperation with Asian and Mediterranean Partners. This was the “spirit” of the Mediterranean Conference in Palermo, where we proposed the “Mediterranean dimension” as a complement rather than an alternative to the Eurasian dimension.

I should like to conclude by expressing my profound appreciation

for the work of the Secretariat, which I regard as the driving force behind the OSCE and thank it once again for its support. I should also like to thank the field missions, which are the Organization's operational arm, putting our dialogue into action and ensuring the implementation of our commitments.

Italy hopes to be able to contribute to the success of this Organization when it assumes the Chairmanship in 2018. Our Chairmanship will be based on dialogue, on listening respectfully to the point of view of others, and on the idea of sharing, responsibility, and deep commitment. I am certain that Italy will be able to count on your valuable support, starting with something as fundamental as the timely adoption of the budget. The challenges at this moment in history call for and justify responses that are appropriate to such a critical time. It is for that reason that I believe, once again, that this Organization can play a leading role in facing up to these challenges.

Thank you.

23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
HAMBURG, 8-9 DECEMBER 2016.  
STATEMENT BY MR. PAOLO GENTILONI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Thank you Frank Walter.  
Dear Colleagues,

I would first like to echo what Federica (Mogherini) said earlier on behalf of the European Union. I would also like to thank the German Presidency, not only for its magnificent hospitality, but above all for its generous efforts this year to revitalize the role of the OSCE, a fundamental pillar of the European security system: a system which, when it has deteriorated, has led to endless tragedies.

Forty-one years ago, the Helsinki Final Act marked the start of a new security architecture, precisely in a period of great tension between East and West. It was a strong and audacious political choice, which over the years has allowed us to build a space for permanent dialogue and to equip ourselves with operational tools to promote our security in an omnipresent way, through a collective and shared effort. Missions in the field and autonomous institutions, such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative of Freedom of the Media, and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, are concrete examples of this.

Now, however, the Organization is going through a phase of great uncertainty, and it seems to me that the temptation prevails among us to call into question all that we have hard-won. A tendency is spreading that sees the OSCE not as a forum for dialogue par excellence excellence, but as a place of confrontation and cross-vetoes, dramatically undermining its potential.

This is a huge mistake: we need the OSCE now more than in the past. We need to safeguard, to consolidate a framework that facilitates cooperation and safeguards collective security in the pan-European space. It is not a question of reinventing the wheel: the OSCE is the framework we need, with its solid toolbox of principles, shared com-

mitments, and flexible operational tools, developed over the past 40 years.

It is on this basis that Italy has accepted the Presidency of the Organization in 2018.

We are well aware of the problems ahead of us. The protracted conflicts and the crisis in Ukraine represent major cracks in the European stability, but we can only restart and remain engaged in dialogue.

We also have a duty of clarity: in order to rebuild trust, in the Donbass as in Aleppo, dialogue is not enough. Concrete steps are needed, which only the parties in the conflict can and must take.

The Organization can accompany, facilitate solutions and the Presidencies are here for that. But it is the parties that have to find and pursue them concretely.

Today, more than ever before, European security is faced with transnational challenges and threats, to which it is absurd to even think of being able to respond alone. I am thinking of the threat posed by terrorism and the structural challenges posed by the migratory flows crossing the region. This is a challenge that, as you all know, sees Italy in the front line, with over 170,000 landings since the beginning of this year on Italian shores.

The OSCE can play a role in this too, being both a platform for dialogue and a complementary operational instrument to other international organizations.

Experience in the fight against human trafficking is even more valuable today. Because these are the two main problems we must tackle together: tackling the remote and root causes of the phenomenon and dismantling the transnational criminal organizations that exploit people's desperation.

Dear Colleagues,

over the past two years, the OSCE has been a key player in European security, both in the West and in the East. In the East, the priority has been the Ukrainian crisis, in which the Organization has demonstrated its capacity for action on the ground (with the fundamental work of the Special Monitoring Mission) and has at the same time been actively involved in the negotiations conducted in Minsk,

demonstrating conflict management and conflict prevention skills, which have helped to limit the spiral of violence, confirming that involvement in the pursuit of negotiated, inclusive and sustainable solutions is still the way forward.

On the Italian side, we pay tribute to Germany, and in particular to Frank Walter, for the great effort they have invested. We believe that resolving the Ukrainian crisis is the crucial element in overcoming the current confrontation, restarting dialogue, and recreating a spirit of cooperation among all OSCE participating States. In 2017 as a member of the Troika, and in 2018 as President-in-Office, Italy will work hard to overcome the crisis and strengthen, on the basis of renewed cooperation, the security architecture in Europe.

For Italy, the security dimension of the Mediterranean has always been complementary – and not an alternative – to the OSCE’s traditional Euro-Asian security dimension, and the events of recent years prove that we were right.

The Mediterranean is going through a phase of great change and turbulence and the key issue is how to rebuild the fabric of a possible order, urgently recreating the minimum basis for reducing tensions and establishing mutual trust.

It is here that the experience and history of the OSCE, and before that of the CSCE, can provide what the Mediterranean area sorely needs: the example of a process capable of creating a regional, inclusive forum of multilateral cooperation, not limited to security issues, which facilitates the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue, confidence-building measures and cooperation in areas of common interest.

In Helsinki, between 1972 and 1975, and then in the 20-year process that led from the CSCE to the OSCE, Europe built a great bridge. Today, above all, it is bridges we need, not trenches or walls.

22<sup>nd</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BELGRADE, 3-4 DECEMBER 2015.  
STATEMENT BY MR. PAOLO GENTILONI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I would first like to associate myself with the statement made by the EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini. I would also like to thank Serbia for its hospitality and for effectively conducting the OSCE Chairmanship in a particularly difficult year. Our best wishes for good work to Germany, which will take over the Chairmanship next month.

Mr. Chairperson, dear Colleagues,

This is the second time the OSCE Ministerial Council has debated the Ukrainian crisis. I appeal to your constructive spirit, more so than in Basel where mutual recriminations prevailed over the will to compromise. The conflict in Ukraine has already caused more than seven thousand deaths, more than one million displaced persons and refugees, dramatic suffering for the population of eastern Ukraine and a serious economic crisis for the entire country, which has seen its gross domestic product fall by a quarter. From the outset, the OSCE has worked constructively to resolve this serious crisis, with the Special Monitoring Mission and the Trilateral Contact Group, within the framework of which the first Minsk agreement was reached in September 2014.

His commendable work was then followed by that of the Normandy Group, which led to the second Minsk agreement, on 12 February, a platform for a lasting and sustainable solution to the crisis. Our efforts are aimed at its full implementation, as well as at reinforcing stability on the ground. Despite episodic peaks of tension, more frequent in recent weeks, the truce agreed on 1st September seems to be holding. This is important, as the security situation facilitates discussions at the negotiating table.

Italy firmly believes that the action of the OSCE and the Normandy Group should be supported, and I sincerely hope that this will be the main conclusion of our meeting today.

As for the annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation, I cannot help but reiterate the illegitimacy, the violation of norms and principles of international law, starting with the inviolability of borders, sanctioned by the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE is an indispensable pillar of the European security system, and it needs to be given more resources. I am sorry to see that the OSCE budget for 2016 has not been approved yet. We, ourselves, opposed the increase of the budget in the past, and we did so because our share is disproportionate, and the scales mechanism does not follow the one in place for the UN budget. Nevertheless, when the Secretary General called for a 3% increase, we responded positively. We therefore supported the compromise proposal submitted by Germany, which chairs the Budget Committee. This proposal, as you know, envisages an increase of the 2016 OSCE budget by only about one per cent. Let me address an appeal to those who did not agree to it, urging them to reconsider their position.

As for the mechanism of inspections, next year we should revise the Vienna Document, which regulates them, and we cannot miss this opportunity. We agree with the proposals already made:

- increase the number of inspections;
- lower the thresholds above which the obligation to notify a military exercise and invite observers from other countries to attend is triggered;
- keep the principle of “host nation consent” within reasonable limits, in case unusual military activities are detected.

I hope that agreed solutions can be found on these proposals: this would help to restore a much-needed climate of trust and security in Europe.

We also support the proposal of the Serbian Chairmanship and the Secretary General to strengthen the capabilities of the OSCE in managing peace operations, including peacekeeping operations.

I would also like to recall the UN-mandated proposals of the Panel of Eminent Persons, in the interim report submitted in June and in the final one distributed last week. We agreed that this is an excellent basis for discussion, and we hope that the process can come to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Allow me to mention the OSCE Mediterranean Conference held in Jordan in October, which I attended, and to congratulate the German Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Group for its decision to promote participation at the political level. The Conference highlighted the close link between security in the Mediterranean and security in Europe, and undoubtedly all those present will have to agree that even some of the issues that are on the agenda today - think of migration flows and the fight against extremism and terrorism - cannot be successfully addressed without the involvement of our Mediterranean Partners. I therefore agree with the conclusions on the Conference in Jordan, including the hope that the conditions for the admission of Libya will soon be met.

Before concluding, allow me to address a special greeting to the Secretary General, and to the Italian officials of the OSCE, whose commitment to the Organization fills us with satisfaction and will not be wasted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

21<sup>st</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BASEL, 4-5 DECEMBER 2014.  
STATEMENT BY MR. PAOLO GENTILONI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson,

Given that Italy currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, I shall pass the floor, as is customary, to the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, whose position Italy fully supports.

First, however, I should like once again to congratulate the Swiss Chairmanship for the exemplary and extremely efficient manner in which it has led the OSCE in a particularly troubled period. I am certain that the Serbian Chairmanship, to which I extend my warmest wishes for success, will be able to take advantage of this positive experience to continue on the path we have embarked on.

I should also like to recall today's ceremony for the transfer to the Parties of responsibility for the implementation of Article IV of the 1995 Dayton Accords. We are happy that this task has been entrusted to an Italian official, Major General Michele Torres, to whom we offer our congratulations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We believe that in the crisis situation that we face today, we must search through the OSCE for ways of reducing tensions and re-establishing the conditions for cooperation, security and peace. I should like finally to stress the importance of the OSCE's Mediterranean dimension, which is of priority interest for Italy for the purpose of political dialogue and cooperation with the Mediterranean Partners.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is now my pleasure to give the floor to the High Representative Federica Mogherini.

*Statement of Italy at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session (5 December)*

Thank you, President,

Before giving the floor to the Delegation of the European Union, in whose declaration Italy fully recognizes itself, I would like to stress a point to which my Country attaches particular importance.

The OSCE's cooperation with the Mediterranean Partners is of primary importance to Italy.

The fight against terrorism also entails combating criminal groups that exploit illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. There may be different agendas, but "marriages of convenience" between terrorism and organized crime are unfortunately a well-known practice, which must be defeated in the interest of all. The exploitation of the desperation of migrants constitutes a crime and flow of resources similar to the logic of kidnapping for ransom, against which we are acting.

I now hand the floor to the European Union Delegation.

20<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
KIEV, 5-6 DECEMBER 2013.  
STATEMENT BY MR. MARIO GIRO,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like first of all to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship and Minister Kozhara for their excellent work and kind hospitality and to extend my best wishes to our Swiss colleagues, who are getting ready to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in 2014. I also take this opportunity to address warm greetings to the Secretary General Ambassador

Lamberto Zannier.

Italy would like to reaffirm the importance of the role of the OSCE, a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, based on the principle of the indivisibility of security and a holistic approach developed over the course of its history. The OSCE's capacity for adaptation and the added value provided by its network of missions make it a unique instrument for conflict prevention and also above all in the face of the variety of new threats, including those relating to information security and combating trafficking in human beings. The effectiveness of the OSCE's work is contingent on a full affirmation of the rule of law throughout its geographical area. Its role in this area has once again been significant in the course of the year that is coming to a close.

With regard to the first dimension of the OSCE, the politico-military dimension, we believe that the European system of conventional arms control should be relaunched. Our Organization remains a fundamental point of reference in this regard, starting with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, long considered the cornerstone of this system.

We also recall the continuing validity of the Treaty on Open Skies. We need an arms control regime based on the principles of transparency, responsibility and reciprocity that reflects the changes taking

place in the equipment and the technology of conventional arms. Moreover, we should not forget the fundamental role played by the Forum for Security Cooperation in the discussion and improvement of the European system of confidence - and security-building measures (CSBMs) and therefore believe it necessary to continue updating the Vienna Document to make it more adapted from an operational point of view to the new reality. In that context, we believe that the convening of the Security Days was a successful experiment that should be repeated in order to achieve greater involvement by the capitals in the work of the Forum.

Among the various “success stories” that have characterized our Organization, we should not forget the implementation of Article IV of the Dayton Agreement, to which Italy has traditionally made a widely appreciated contribution and which could also act as a model for CSBMs for other subregional arrangements.

The pioneering role played by the OSCE in the area of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, which are an urgent issue in some regions, should be further enhanced and our best practices more widely diffused.

As regards cybersecurity, an area of increasing importance for international security, Italy believes that the role of the OSCE is of primary importance and therefore welcomes the adoption of an initial set of measures to strengthen mutual confidence in this sensitive area.

As far as political dialogue is concerned, we believe that it is vitally important for the OSCE to continue its collaboration with the Mediterranean Partners. Two and a half years after the Arab Spring, it is not yet possible to make a uniform summary of the events that have taken place in this area, which is of crucial importance for European security. The OSCE can provide the region with the necessary expertise to respond to the challenges common to the various countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The ongoing political transitions should be accompanied by the development of economic systems that are more open and integrated in the European economic fabric, which go in parallel with human rights and strengthening the rule of law, in that way preventing a deterioration of the situation, which could have destabilizing repercussions for Europe as a whole. We believe that this dialogue should be extended to Libya, a key country on

the southern shore, which should be accorded the status of the seventh OSCE Mediterranean Partner for Cooperation.

Italy is particularly interested in the development of dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners. In that context I should like to recall the seminar on trafficking in human beings in the Mediterranean region co-organized by the OSCE Special Representative Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, which took place in Rome on 8 February this year. This event reiterated that trafficking is a significant transnational threat to security calling for greater multilateral cooperation between the OSCE and the countries of the southern shore.

We also advocated and funded the creation this October of the position of OSCE-MED Focal Point within the Secretariat in Vienna, which will have the task of developing ideas to enable the Mediterranean dimension to move forward through the establishment of a network of think tanks, representatives of civil society and the academic world to supplement through their own activities the initiatives taken by the Secretariat and the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership group.

We therefore welcome the fact that the forthcoming Swiss Chairmanship will continue to include the development of Mediterranean dialogue in its priorities and are willing to organize joint initiatives, particularly during the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

Besides the Mediterranean, another theatre fundamental to the security of the OSCE area is Central Asia. Next year will see a key phase in the history of Afghanistan with the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force and the holding of presidential elections. The promotion of security, stability, prosperity, and democracy in Afghanistan is of vital interest to the OSCE countries, as part of the continuation of regional cooperation relaunched by the Istanbul Process/Heart of Asia.

With regard to protracted conflicts, it is evident that our Organization has not yet succeeded in effectively carrying out its mission. There are grounds for concern but also reflection, since we cannot give up on the fundamental – I would even say primordial – task above all of bringing peace to all the regions of the Euro-Atlantic space. In all of the unresolved situations there are envoys and special representatives, who have spared no efforts and whom Italy supports without reserve. The fact remains that it is time to harvest the fruits of these efforts and

to restore hope to the people involved in these conflicts for a future in peace and prosperity.

We also believe that it is important to relaunch the second dimension, which includes matters of great relevance to economic and environmental security, such as energy and the prevention of both natural and man-made disasters.

As emphasized at the outset, Italy reaffirms the importance of promoting and defending the fundamental rights of the individual. In that context we welcome the adoption of two important decisions regarding Roma and Sinti and freedom of religion and faith. The latter in particular will strengthen our ability to combat religious intolerance, in particular with regard to the Jewish, Muslim and also Christian communities. I should also like to draw attention to the persistence of worrying manifestations of racist and xenophobic intolerance and to the excessive incidence of violence against women and certain sectors of society, starting with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Dealing with the challenge posed by migratory phenomena and full implementation of the rule of law throughout the OSCE area are other highly topical issues. In the light of the recent tragedy in Lampedusa, the tenth anniversary of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings is of particular significance as a key moment for fostering joint responsibility by the countries of origin, transit, and destination of migratory flows.

Cooperation between the OSCE and the European Union is vital to guarantee protection of fundamental human rights, in particular of vulnerable members of society like migrants. As the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinero, whose highly successful mandate is coming to an end, stated recently in Monaco, trafficking in human beings is a “modern form of slavery” affecting more than 20 million people in the world today.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion we would like to express the hope that the Helsinki+40 project inaugurated in Astana of an indivisible, free and demo-

cratic Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community on the basis of a more homogeneous single political, economic and cultural space will proceed and arrive at its conclusion so as to give renewed vigour to our Organization and enable it to face the new challenges. We are confident that the future Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia will lend continuity to the Organization's activity as it approaches the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015.

PART III

19<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
DUBLIN, 6-7 DECEMBER 2012.  
STATEMENT BY MS MARTA DASSÙ,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to thank the Irish Chairmanship and Minister Gilmore for his work. I should like in particular to express our appreciation for the mediation efforts carried out by the Chairmanship. And I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General, Ambassador Zannier.

Italy is a main contributor to the OSCE budget and one of its biggest supporters, as confirmed by the quantity and quality of the human resources dedicated to this Organization. The State that I represent here today has maintained this commitment over the years because it believes in the unique nature of the OSCE based on a “comprehensive” concept of security.

Awareness of the historical value of the OSCE does not alter the fact that any organization must affirm its validity over time by creating its own agenda and adapting it to new challenges. The OSCE has reached a crossroads in the unfinished business of creating a genuine security community and of facing new challenges, both qualitative and geographical. Completing the old agenda and addressing the new one are the two tasks confronting us as a community based on common principles. Allow me to welcome the admission of Mongolia to our community, which continues to expand in this way to the east and the south.

Starting with the unfinished agenda and concentrating initially on the first dimension of the OSCE, I believe that we have three essential objectives: relaunching the conventional arms control regime in Europe, enhancing confidence-building measures, and confronting both protracted and frozen conflicts with greater boldness and dynamism. As a community linked by shared commitments, if we fail to make co-

herent and consistent efforts on these points, it will become difficult to continue to defend the added value that is unique to the OSCE. There is still a long way to go to achieve full implementation of the principles derived from the Helsinki Final Act. The use of force is still widespread, and there are several conflicts that have long remained unresolved. We regard the progress made in the negotiations on Transnistria as an encouraging sign.

Italy believes that there is an evident connection between security, human rights, and democracy. As the anniversary of Helsinki approaches, it would be a good thing to recall the fact that it is the existence of this connection that has made possible the reunification of Europe. Today, this very realization should help us to confront new transnational challenges, starting with trafficking in human beings. In the second dimension, it is significant that the Chairmanship has opted to propose draft decisions on good governance and combating money-laundering by criminal organizations.

Some important decisions (on the strategic framework for police-related activities and on combating illicit trafficking in drugs and their chemical precursors) have already been adopted. Progress on these issues, also in the context of the fight against terrorism and cybersecurity, remains a priority. With regard to combating transnational threats, we are in favour of greater activity by the OSCE, also by strengthening the Conflict Prevention Centre.

The new agenda depends not only on the nature of the challenges to security but also on their geographical spread. Italy believes that the OSCE can make an important contribution to the success of the democratic transitions in the Mediterranean, in particular by means of election monitoring, and to the future stability of Afghanistan.

Historically, the unique feature of the OSCE's method has been its ability to create confidence and security through cooperation based on shared principles. On paper the OSCE has attempted to guarantee stability. It has fostered a dynamic form of stability capable of producing profound transformations in the European space, but without divisive conflicts. The Mediterranean world needs a similar frame of reference.

I should like to mention one more concept that I believe to be particularly important in the current transitional phase of the internation-

al system. One of the added values of the OSCE has been its ability to combine respect for States' sovereignty with the promotion of the rights of their inhabitants. This is an ability that we continue to need and whose importance seems indeed to have increased again.

The promotion and defence of fundamental rights is one of the pillars of Italy's participation in international organizations. In this context, we have been concerned to note a decline in the protection of some of the rights that the OSCE participating States are committed to respect. We welcome the two draft decisions proposed by the Chairmanship on freedom of the media and xenophobia, which together with freedom of religion, are matters of priority for Italy.

In Astana the OSCE initiated a project for an indivisible, free and democratic Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community based on a more homogeneous political, economic and cultural space capable of looking towards the future and of putting behind us the logic of bloc divisions and spheres of influence. In Dublin we must take the next step by adopting the Helsinki+40 decision with its recommendations for gradually implementing this project, which unites us and gets back to our common interests and values.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

18<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
VILNIUS, 6-7 DECEMBER 2011.  
STATEMENT BY MR. GIULIO TERZI DI SANT'AGATA,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

I wish to thank the Lithuanian Presidency and Minister Azubalis for the excellent work they have done. I would like in particular to say how much I appreciate the effective mediation conducted by the Presidency, which has paved the way for the success of today's Ministerial. And I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new Secretary General, Ambassador Zannier.

Through its work and its vision, the OSCE testifies to the fact that security and the fundamental freedoms are by no means incompatible. On the contrary, as the Arab Spring has reminded us, the principles of stability and democratic growth are mutually supportive. Democratic freedoms without stability run the risk of being mere empty expressions. And stability without rights often takes the form of odious oppression. The OSCE provides us with instruments and values that enable us to advance the principles of security and democracy together, without relinquishing either. Without any unequal trade-off, but in the protection of the greater interest of the human beings who live and work in the indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community.

One year on from the Astana Summit, we do not intend to withdraw from the bedrocks of security and freedom on which we have undertaken to erect together our common future of peace, stability, and rights.

Italy has long been engaged in implementing this ambitious agenda. We have contributed to the efforts to reinvigorate the OSCE through the Corfu Process. Some of the themes we have promoted in that Process have come to assume a crucial value in the work of the Organization. I refer, for example, to the strengthening of the conflict-management mechanisms and the revitalization of the politico-military sector. Further advancing these issues continues to be a priority for Italy. In the conflict-prevention framework, we look favorably on greater operational capability for the OSCE, thanks not least to the

higher profile of the Secretary General and the Conflict Prevention Center.

On the politico-military front, with our recent Presidency of the Forum for Security Cooperation, we played a part in updating the Vienna 1999 Document. We are convinced that the OSCE must continue to occupy a front-line position on the fundamental security questions that are closely connected to its very identity.

At the same time, the rebellions calling for dignity and democracy in North Africa and the Middle East are opening up new scenarios for OSCE to collaborate with its Mediterranean partners. The Arab Spring has confirmed the indissoluble link between Euro-Atlantic and Mediterranean security, a link already acknowledged in the Helsinki Final Act. By playing on the concept of comprehensive and indivisible security, the OSCE can help make the Mediterranean dimension a focus of our policies by supporting the democratic development of our Mediterranean partners. These partners can certainly view the Organization as a key interlocutor in light of the experience it has acquired in assisting the transition processes in the countries to the east.

This expertise could be put to most fruitful effect in a number of sectors. I refer, for example, to the electoral cycle, to the democratic control of the police and armed forces, to the principles of legality, tolerance and non discrimination, to the development of civil society. We hope, therefore, that our Mediterranean partners will take full advantage of this opportunity for collaboration.

Moreover, other useful insights can be drawn from the OSCE legacy. I think in particular about the experience of dialogue on an equal footing among countries with different historical experiences and social models. In the Seventies and Eighties, dialogue was structured in a series of conferences that allowed East and West to “come closer” and to agree on principles for the development not only of peaceful coexistence, but especially of a fruitful political, economic, and social cooperation. It would be worthwhile, I think, to explore whether this model can usefully also inspire the development of relations between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Thanks to its increasingly active role in Central Asia, the OSCE can, moreover, contribute to the stabilization of Afghanistan, not least in light of the new impetus the Bonn Conference has given to regional

cooperation. We are also counting heavily on the Organization's commitment to combating the most serious transnational threats. Most notably, we deem the consolidation of the Organization's mandate in the policing sector and in combating drug trafficking to be of strategic importance. We believe that greater collaboration is possible in combating the trafficking of human beings: a heinous phenomenon that violates the fundamental human rights and threatens the security of our states.

The successes achieved thus far and the ambitious goals we intend to pursue must not, however, allow us to forget that the principles of the Helsinki Final Act have not yet been implemented in full. Recourse to the use of force is still widespread and several "frozen" conflicts have long awaited a solution. We therefore view the resumption of the formal 5+2 negotiations on the Transdniestria questions as an encouraging signal.

The promotion and defence of the fundamental human rights are distinguishing features of our active participation in the international organizations. In this context, we have noted with some concern the backward steps in the protection of certain rights, rights which OSCE countries have undertaken to respect. We were sorry indeed to hear of the death sentences recently handed down by the judicial authorities in Belarus. We call for them to be revoked at the earliest possible date, in compliance with the moratorium on the death penalty promoted by Italy with the Resolutions approved by the United Nations General Assembly.

The campaign against intolerance and discrimination on religious grounds is another front requiring strong commitment and keen attention. We cannot allow extremist fringe movements to prevail. For this reason, we have greatly appreciated the OSCE's growing activity on this issue, which Italy views as a priority.

In Astana, we launched the project for a free, democratic, common, and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community based on a more uniform political, economic and cultural space. A space that is able to look to the future and turn its back on the approach based on divisions into blocs and spheres of influence.

Here in Vilnius, we have to take a new step towards the implementation of this shared vision. We have done so in the knowledge that

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improving our citizens' levels of security and freedom is a goal that all the countries of the Organization, including those that are most democratically advanced, must pursue with great determination.

17<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
ATHENS, 1-2 DECEMBER 2009.  
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GIANFRANCO VARVESI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE OSCE.

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to express the regret of Minister Frattini, who had wanted to take part in today's Ministerial Council meeting but is unable to do so because of an unforeseen commitment that arose a few days ago.

He has instructed me to present his regards to you, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, and to all the delegations present. On his behalf I should like to express the great appreciation of my government for the outstanding work of the Greek Chairmanship, whose efforts and application have not only enabled this meeting to be organized so successfully but have also brought to a conclusion a year full of commitments, challenges, and significant progress.

Italy supports the strategy pursued by the Chairmanship of emphasizing the elements that unite the participating States, all of which belong to the same community of values, and of focusing attention on its common denominator, which will enable the Organization to reaffirm its role and identify the guidelines required for effective future action.

The process that we have embarked upon is particularly delicate, and it would be short-sighted to expect concrete results immediately. The participating States have begun wide-ranging dialogue on European security. We have reaffirmed the relevance of the OSCE principles and the need to implement them in their entirety in the awareness that the Organization's full potential has not yet been exploited. By anchoring security dialogue within the OSCE it has been possible to discuss even divisive issues openly and to dissipate the climate of suspicion, the legacy of a bygone era, and to seek cohesion and trust on the basis of common interests and values.

There is growing agreement on the basic objectives. We must now

identify the most concrete way in which we can cooperate in areas of common interest. There is agreement on the areas in which cooperation needs to be strengthened. An important result of the Corfu Process is that due attention is being given to our ambitious agenda for dialogue. We all realize that our focus from now on must be to strengthen instruments for arms control, for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and for conflict prevention and management, and to enhance the capacity to respond to global threats such as organized crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, and the question of energy security. We agree as to the need for a multidimensional approach and a balance between the three dimensions on which the Organization is based.

Italy has particularly emphasized the need to strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms with account taken of new instruments such as those related to early warning, which could be highly effective in dealing with new threats. We also believe that it is important for civil society to participate in the European security dialogue to make citizens aware of the efforts being undertaken to strengthen stability and peace in Europe.

Like many other participating States, we would welcome greater cooperation among regional organizations dealing with security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region with a view to enhancing synergies. The need for greater interaction between international organizations is not new. The Platform for co-operative security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999 has already drawn attention to need for organizations to coordinate their activities, giving greater definition to the role of each of them.

I would like to return to the great appreciation that my government has for the work of the Greek Chairmanship and to express the hope that its efforts will be rewarded. The adoption of a political declaration for the first time since the Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002 would have been the best confirmation of the degree of consensus that we have managed to achieve. It will also be important to adopt a joint declaration expressing our commitment to security dialogue that seals the political will to achieve greater cooperation by all participating States. I believe, finally, that the procedural decision is of particular relevance as it will enable us to fix the orientations for 2010.

It would be useful in this regard after Athens to identify a suitable method for achieving the specific results that we all hope for.

I would like, in conclusion, to welcome the incoming Chairmanship and wish it every success in the difficult task of taking our process into the second, more operative phase. We support the proposal by Astana to hold a summit meeting in 2010, regarding this initiative as being consistent with the desire shared by all of us to strengthen the OSCE. The Organization has not met at the level of Heads of State or Government since the Istanbul Summit in 1999. The process we have embarked upon is highly ambitious and needs a major political stimulus. We assure the Kazakh Chairmanship of our support together with the commitment of all participating States to arrive at the summit with a common agenda commensurate with our aspirations.

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16<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
HELSINKI, 4-5 DECEMBER 2008.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ALFREDO MANTICA,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Ministers and Esteemed Colleagues,

I would like first of all to express my gratitude for the hospitality with which we have been received here in Helsinki. I should also like to express the high appreciation of the Government of Italy and myself for the excellent work of the Finnish Chairmanship, which has spared no effort to promote consensus between the States and ensure the success of this ministerial meeting.

Italy supports the strategy of the Finnish Chairmanship aimed at highlighting those aspects that unify the participating States, which are all members of the same community of values, and focusing attention on the common denominator, which will enable the Organization to strengthen its own role on the international scene and to identify the guiding principles that will help to effectively shape its work in the future, a process to which the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can make a decisive contribution.

We have therefore lent our full support to a high-profile political declaration concentrating on the key questions and looking towards the future so that we can conclude our work, after a number of years in which it has been impossible to do so, with a consensus document on the course of action to be taken within the Organization.

The year coming to an end has seen events that have shaken our mutual confidence and demonstrated the need to identify a common vision of the rules that govern the coexistence of all countries, large and small, in the Euro-Atlantic region, which extends as far as Central Asia. There is certainly no need to rewrite the Helsinki Final Act or the Charter of Paris nor to revise the commitments undertaken in sub-

sequent years. By contrast, there is a need to reach a full understanding on their implementation that is not conditioned by a re-emergence of the old mentality of blocs or spheres of influence. In short there is a need to strengthen respect for principles such as the territorial integrity of States and renunciation of the use of force to resolve conflicts.

We support the idea suggested by President Medvedev and the proposal formulated by President Sarkozy. We hope that multilateral discussion on the future of security in Europe can be initiated in the near future.

There is no doubt that the OSCE is the most suitable framework in this regard, given its geographical scope and its membership, its comprehensive idea of security and its set of shared values and commitments.

We believe that the proposal for convening a summit meeting of the 56 countries in due course with the participation of the main international organizations operating in the security field should be supported.

The initiation of dialogue on European security issues is designed to reverse the gradual erosion of confidence in the wake of the events in Kosovo and Georgia and will help to prevent dividing lines from forming again in Europe. The creation of a climate of confidence, as Minister Steinmeier noted, can be reached through joint efforts aimed at solving the long-standing conflicts in Transdniestria and Nagorno-Karabakh. There are encouraging signs that this is taking place, and the aforementioned creation of a climate of confidence will also, of course, contribute positively to the discussion in Geneva on a settlement of the crisis in Georgia.

The resumption of dialogue in the first place will make it possible to reach an understanding on the full implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and the rapid entry into force of the agreement on its adaptation. The initiative announced by Minister Steinmeier appears particularly useful in this regard.

This meeting will be completely successful if we managed after so many years to issue a political declaration approving lines of action for the future regarding the launch of discussions on consolidating security in Europe and on "frozen conflicts".

We therefore hope for the emergence of a shared political deter-

mination that will give an impetus to the convention on the international legal personality and immunity of the OSCE and at the same time for the commencement of consultations on a charter that focuses on the essentials and is not weighed down by the inclusion of controversial elements.

In the same constructive spirit, we should be in a position today to agree on a declaration to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that would confirm the consensus of all States regarding the implementation of its main commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

The *genius loci*, the “spirit of Helsinki”, should inspire us to endeavour to reinvigorate this Organization which, thanks to its operative instruments – the institutions, missions, special representatives, election monitoring operations and capacity-building programmes – has made and will continue to make a great contribution to the implementation of the aims of the Charter of Paris for a new peaceful and democratic Europe.

I am confident that under the future Greek Chairmanship the OSCE will face up to the challenges awaiting it and will direct its energy towards the truly priority objectives shared by all of us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
MADRID, 29-30 NOVEMBER 2007.  
STATEMENT BY MR. FAMIANO CRUCIANELLI,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Ministers and dear Colleagues,

Italy fully supports the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Luís Filipe Marques Amado, in his capacity as acting President of the council of the European Union. I shall confine myself to sharing with you a number of thoughts prompted by our specific national perspective.

In the first place I would like to thank Spain, not only for the hospitality shown us but above all for the wisdom, energy, and efficiency it has displayed in performing the duties of the Chairmanship during a year which was unquestionably not the easiest. This Ministerial Council meeting provided an excellent demonstration of the zeal displayed by our hosts in dealing with the questions to be handled in the three dimensions of the OSCE, and we earnestly hope and trust that it will be concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

The CSCE and then the OSCE have made an important contribution to European political affairs during some of the most critical periods traversed by our continent during the last fifty years, and we are deeply convinced that the Organization will continue to be a significant element of “added value” in the framework of international relations.

In the context of constructive dialogue on specific problems, we trust that the Convention on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity, Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE will now be adopted without any artificial delays or conditions, as this would be in keeping with the need to overcome the distortions that weigh so negatively today on the operative capacity of the OSCE. Further strengthening of

the Organization could be provided by a Statute setting out its basic shared principles and essential structures.

The institutions and missions are valuable instruments which confer on the OSCE that operative flexibility which constitutes its principal “comparative advantage”. We must continue to strengthen their effectiveness and flexibility when adapting them to changing requirements, at the same time avoiding everything that might weaken them.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), above all, has managed to assume a prominent role thanks to the professional approach of its staff and its capacity to give specific application to the innovative approach of the OSCE in the area of human rights. The election observation activities, in particular, provide a model which is widely followed in the context of the United Nations and the European Union. While we may need a fresh approach by participating States aimed at securing better geographical balance in the observation teams, this remains a heritage of the OSCE which is worth of protecting.

As far as the Organization’s field missions are concerned, we must note that they have contributed decisively to the promotion of security on our continent and that they have offered an irreplaceable form of assistance to States in the building and strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law. In particular, we believe that, in the matter of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, the mission in Kosovo plays and can continue to play an irreplaceable role recognized by the relevant international organizations of the region and by various elements of the population. The best contribution this Ministerial Council meeting could make to stability in the Western Balkans would accordingly be a decision to maintain this presence in an operative state next year, whatever solution is adopted with regard to its political status.

Mr. Chairman,

Effective dialogue on the future of the OSCE cannot do without the necessary changes in geographical equilibrium because the persistent perception of a division between countries to the east and to the west of Vienna remains an obstacle to complete unity of purpose

among the 56 participating States – unity which is essential if we are to give the Organization a fresh start. Aware as we are of this need, Italy is delighted by the forthcoming decision by which Kazakhstan is to be awarded the Chairmanship in the near future.

We also hope for unity and not division in the interests of finding a positive solution to the present impasse regarding the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, a Treaty which Italy regards as a basic element of security on our continent. At the same time, we are aware that we must redouble our efforts in order to find innovative solutions acceptable to all which meet the requirements and the needs of all parties. I should like to launch an appeal that we make every effort to find these solutions and that we avoid, at the same time, unilateral decisions which in any case would not be useful for our forthcoming discussions.

Collaboration with the countries of Central Asia – an important political priority for Italy and for the European Union – is supported in the OSCE by a variety of concrete instruments which should be widely used and strengthened. In particular, by strengthening of border control capabilities, which would facilitate legitimate commercial contacts and constitute an obstacle to illicit contacts – in the first-place drug trafficking – is a key area in which the OSCE possesses relevant experience. We are therefore in favour of a decision which opens the way for an OSCE role in the training of border guards assigned to serve in the southern part of the OSCE area in Central Asia, an activity which is valuable for participating States and for Afghanistan, a partner country whose stability is important to all of us.

In conclusion, I would like to extend our best wishes to Finland, the incoming Chairmanship, for every possible success, in the conviction that that country will know how to guide our Organization with wisdom and determination in a year which promises to be full of challenges and opportunities.

14<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BRUSSELS, 4-5 DECEMBER 2006.  
STATEMENT BY MR. VITTORIO CRAXI,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Secretary General,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Dear Colleagues,

Italy is in full agreement with the statement made by Minister for Foreign Affairs Tuomioja in his capacity as acting President of the Council of the European Union. I shall therefore limit myself to a few remarks reflecting the specific Italian point of view.

First, I would like to thank the Belgian Chairmanship, not only for its hospitality but above all for the wisdom, energy and efficiency with which it has succeeded in guiding the OSCE in the course of this year.

For some years we have been discussing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of this Organization with a view to enabling it to cope with the threats and challenges to security confronting it in this new century: occasionally the debate on this subject has seemed almost harmful to the common purpose and political will of the participating States. Italy hopes that the results obtained now will be appreciated at their true value.

We are giving favourable consideration to the possibility of completing the transformation of the CSCE into a fully-fledged international organization; this being so, we feel that it would be useful to begin work on the text of a convention according the OSCE international legal personality and capacity.

Italy has supported with conviction the efforts undertaken to strike a better balance in the activities of the Organization in its three dimensions. This improved balance is due to a strengthening of activities in areas indissolubly linked with the new concept of security - for example efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, tolerance and non-

discrimination and the fight against terrorism – with particular emphasis on human rights – as well as problems connected with migration, strengthening of the economic dimension and, to the extent appropriate, environmental protection as well. In 2005 Italy promoted an initiative designed to strengthen cooperation among participating States in the legal sphere with a view to enhancing international legal cooperation in the fight against terrorism, as foreseen in the Ministerial Declaration which we are called upon to adopt today. Indissolubly linked with terrorism is the nature of the criminal activities which support it. In this context, we have continued the cooperation begun last year with the OSCE's field missions by organizing a further study visit to Rome in connection with the problem of combating money laundering. Italy has also participated with great interest in the meetings organized by the OSCE on the subject of trafficking in human beings, an area where we are convinced, we can make a substantial contribution on the basis of our own national experience and the legal instruments that have been adopted, most recently with a view to treating the exploitation of human beings in the work place with greater severity.

Italy is profoundly convinced that one element essential to the re-launching of the Organization is an adjustment of geographical balance designed to overcome the obsolete concept of “countries to the west and to the east of Vienna”. The countries to the east of Vienna must be in a position to consider themselves fully fledged protagonists in the activities of the OSCE. It is with this thought in mind that Italy regards Kazakhstan's wish to assume the chairmanship of the OSCE with strong sympathy.

The work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the human dimension continues to be of fundamental importance. We want to express our appreciation for the exhaustive report recently submitted by the Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Strohal, and we are confident that on the basis of the suggestions and proposals set forth in that report the ODIHR will become stronger and will be able to improve its activities yet further, whether in matters of election monitoring – an area where its professionalism and experience already acquired are indisputable – or in other sectors of its competence. In order to help improve the elec-

tion monitoring activities, Italy recently made an additional contribution to the fund for the diversification of election observation missions.

In the report we have also noted with approval that the ODIHR has further developed its Programme on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. In thanking the Government of Romania for its offer to host the next conference in Bucharest, we should like to record our belief that this would mean strengthening a holistic approach in the battle against intolerance, while avoiding the establishment of fixed hierarchies among various forms of discrimination or between religions and declining to accept items for discussion upon which no previous agreement has been reached.

But apart from the ODIHR and the other institutions, the field missions still represent a distinct advantage for the OSCE in comparison with other organizations. Strengthening of the resources made available to the Missions in the Caucasus and Central Asia is beyond question a welcome turn of events among other things from the standpoint of bringing about a fresh adjustment of geographical balance. In the short term, however, this must not take place to the detriment of the OSCE presence in the western Balkans. Italy believes that our Organization must continue to play its crucial role for the stability of the region, even more so in view of the important forthcoming developments in Kosovo.

Italy remains firmly convinced that it is the OSCE's absolute responsibility to prevent and resolve crises and to collaborate in institution building during the post-conflict phase.

The fact that what are termed "frozen conflicts" remain unresolved for a time does not in itself constitute evidence of inadequacy. The OSCE is beyond any doubt an effective instrument, but only to the extent that participating States display the political will to make it so. We see this particularly clearly in the case of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Special Representative and the three Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group did a fine job in creating the conditions needed for a decisive turning-point in the negotiations. We hope that the parties will be astute enough to make use of this historic occasion.

The Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE, to which Italy has always devoted particular attention, is ripe for a quality leap: the coun-

tries of the southern shore are being encouraged to consider their partnership not only as a forum for dialogue, but as a process in which specific commitments related to the “acquis” of the OSCE can be singled out for immediate implementation in the interests of the stability of the region and a balanced development of their societies.

We feel certain that in this area as in many others a great deal of energy and creative thought will be deployed by Spain in the course of its Chairmanship, and so we wish Spain every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
LJUBLJANA, 5-6 DECEMBER 2005.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERTO ANTONIONE,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
dear Colleagues,

Italy fully aligns with the speech made by Minister Pearson on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore now limit myself to making a few remarks, from the specific Italian perspective.

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to Minister Dimitrij Rupel for the passion and commitment with which he took on, in such a crucial year, the duties of President of our Organization, and naturally to the entire Slovenian Government for the hospitality and perfect organization of this Ministerial Council. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for success to the new Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who will be able to give the Organization the impulse it needs to fully optimize its operational capacities.

The 30th anniversary has forced the OSCE and its participating States to reflect on its (many) achievements and expectations for the future. The Report prepared by the seven Eminent Persons has provided us with an important indication of the way forward to complete the adaptation of our Organization to the changed geo-political conditions in Europe. This Report was unanimously welcomed by the participating States: the path is therefore marked out and there must be no doubt about our political will to take it.

The definition of structural measures to increase the efficiency of our Organization will require further consultations during 2006. However, I consider the broad agreement reached on a number of common principles and guidelines drawn from the Eminent Person's Report to be very significant, and which constitute an equally important part of it: starting with the reaffirmation of our engagement to

implement the commitments undertaken since Helsinki in the framework of the CSCE/OSCE, and our willingness to fully enhance the OSCE's vocation in the three dimensions of security and the original operational instruments it has given itself – the three institutions and the missions on the ground. These concepts have been incorporated into the Decision on Enhancing OSCE Effectiveness and the draft Ministerial Declaration. We came to Ljubljana convinced that the adoption of both documents is fundamental to the revitalization of our Organization and therefore deserves every effort, in a constructive and open spirit.

A revitalized OSCE will be able to continue to play a leading role in post-conflict rehabilitation in the Balkans and in conflict resolution in Moldova as well as in the Caucasus. At the same time, it will develop the action begun in past years in addressing new threats: terrorism, various forms of intolerance, organized crime, and the abhorrent trafficking in human beings.

The strengthening of mutual trust in each other and in the future of the Organization was nourished by the agreement reached on the scales of budget contributions. Italy, convinced that the stakes justified some sacrifice despite the period of extreme financial rigor it is going through, did not hesitate to accept the increase in its quota. Essential to our decision was the reaffirmation, for the 2007 review, of the criterion of political weight alongside that of national product.

In the field of terrorism, Italy promoted a draft ministerial decision to lay the foundations for indispensable cooperation between the OSCE and the Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). By organizing a meeting at the expert level in 2006, we intend to promote awareness of the technical tools set up by the UNODC to facilitate judicial cooperation between States in order to combat this serious threat more effectively. Closely linked to the theme of terrorism is the fight against criminal activities, which very often serve to fuel it. In this context, we wanted to make our contribution by organizing six study trips to Rome this year, in cooperation with the OSCE field missions, for delegations from the Balkan and Central Asian countries, which enabled a fruitful exchange of experience and information on combating both human trafficking and money laundering.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that, in implementing an initiative approved within the “G8” framework and of which Italy has taken the leadership, a training center for police instructors (COESPU) destined for the organization of peace-keeping operations was established in Vicenza, Italy, and started its activities on 9 November this year. We hope that fruitful cooperation can be established between the OSCE, any interested participating States and COESPU, also with a view to strengthening our Organization’s capacities in the reconstruction of civil institutions in countries emerging from conflict.

At the request of the Chairman of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), we also worked on a text to update the non-proliferation principles contained in the 1994 OSCE Document. Although it was not possible to come to this Ministerial Council with an agreed solution, we nevertheless believe that the prepared text can serve as a useful basis for discussion, should the participating States in the future wish to return to the subject.

These initiatives clearly demonstrate the political support that Italy intends to give to the activities of the OSCE, so that it may continue to work ever more effectively for the security and stability of Europe.

I would like to conclude by wishing the Belgian Foreign Minister, Karel De Gucht, who assumes the Chairmanship for 2006, every success and assuring him our full support. The coming year will be absolutely crucial for the implementation of the reform process: the momentum and commitment with which all OSCE States will participate will be the best testimony to the reconfirmed confidence that we all have in the relevance of the principles that inspired its creation thirty years ago.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

12<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
SOFIA, 6-7 DECEMBER 2004.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERTO ANTONIONE,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
dear Colleagues,

I would like to add a few remarks on a national capacity to the speech of the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, made on behalf of the European Union, to which Italy fully aligns.

We are grateful to Minister Passy for the commitment and energy with which he led the Presidency of our Organization and to the entire Bulgarian Government for hosting and perfectly organizing this Ministerial Council. We also extend our best wishes for success, and the assurance of our full support, to the Slovenian Foreign Minister who assumes the Chairmanship for 2005.

The OSCE, despite its limitations, has demonstrated that it possesses effective instruments and specific experience in strengthening the rule of law and building democratic institutions, which in turn are prerequisites for the trust of citizens in public affairs and thus for the establishment of sound economic development. Tools that place it at the forefront of the stabilization work in countries that have suffered, or are still suffering, from conflicts or ethnically motivated tensions, primarily but not exclusively in the Balkan area.

We look with attention to the current events in Ukraine, where we believe the OSCE can play an important role in supporting institutions to foster conditions of stability and democratic progress. The work of the OSCE must continue to promote solidarity among all participating States in deepening and consolidating the overall security framework on our Continent.

The OSCE must continue to demonstrate its flexibility by being responsive to the requests coming from all its constituents and to the

new priorities posed by international developments. In particular, Italy believes it can make its own specific and essential contribution to the fight against terrorism, which this year has reached a scale previously unknown in Europe, from Madrid to Beslan.

In facing these new challenges, the OSCE must be able to make clear choices, considering what is already being done in other fora and orienting itself towards those areas in which it can best enhance its own specificities.

Enhancing, therefore, and certainly not weakening, its most characteristic instruments, which other international organizations do not possess, and which allow it in particular a fruitful and constant dialogue with NGOs and the civil society of which they are the expression. I am, of course, thinking of the field missions and the institutions that once again this year made a decisive contribution to the pursuit of our common goals.

I will limit myself to mentioning a few areas where much has been done again this year and much can be done under the leadership of a country, such as Slovenia, so close and so friend to Italy, which is bound to Italy by so many cultural and historical ties.

I am thinking, for example, about the economic dimension, where the future Slovenian Chairmanship has already focused on the themes of migration and integration of minorities: topics of great significance in our societies, many of which are growing older, and which can only be effectively addressed with the comprehensive approach that is specific to the OSCE. A few weeks ago, I opened in Italy, in Trieste, the first preparatory seminar for the Economic Forum in 2005, also to express in this way the interest that Italy pays to this specific sector and our appreciation for the programme that the Slovenian Presidency will implement in the coming months.

I am also thinking of the initiative undertaken to fight intolerance. With the appointment of three Personal Representatives, the OSCE is equipping itself with an additional instrument that, in close coordination with the participating States, the Chairmanship-in-Office and the ODIHR, will be able to make an important contribution to our common commitment against anti-Semitism, discrimination against Muslims, and all the various forms of intolerance, including those against Christians.

It remains central among the OSCE's political priorities to make progress towards resolving intra-European conflicts that have remained unsolved for more than a decade, despite the efforts of successive Chairmanships. The credibility of the OSCE is at stake, as well as the security and stability of some member states, indispensable conditions for their greater prosperity.

Mr. President,

2005 presents itself as a year in which the OSCE will also face that process of reform with imagination and creativity, a process whose modalities we have decided upon today. The renewed OSCE will have to be even more effective in guiding and coordinating a wide range of concrete activities, while at the same time continuing to identify fully with the principles, we all share and which now constitute a consolidated and essential heritage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

11<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
MAASTRICHT, 1-2 DECEMBER 2003.  
STATEMENT BY MR. FRANCO FRATTINI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY,  
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of the European Union at this Ministerial Council, a meeting of particular relevance for the future of this Organization. The Member States of the Union strongly believe in the added value of the OSCE. They have contributed to its work and intend to continue to do so. Therefore, it is essential that today we do our utmost to overcome the differences and ensure a successful outcome of our meeting.

The significance of this meeting is well reflected in the Document on the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century. It identifies the role the OSCE can play across all three dimensions, in close collaboration with other international organizations.

In the same vein, we should strive to work more closely with OSCE Partners for Cooperation to prevent and combat threats.

Our countries face threats which are diverse, less visible, and less predictable. Among those, terrorism is the most heinous. The EU recognises the importance of the work done by the OSCE in this field.

Nowadays, more than ever, the OSCE comprehensive approach to security clearly shows its effectiveness. Countering threats only in the traditional frame of hard security is not sufficient. In an integrated world characterised by closer economic as well as cultural interaction and yet, sometimes, by intolerance and ethnic tensions, it is necessary to tackle the context in which threats are generated to achieve real and sustainable reconciliation.

OSCE's role in this process is crucial. The Organization can and

must contribute to strengthening respect for human rights, democratic institutions, the rule of law. It must fight all the phenomena of intolerance and discrimination.

Recent history has proven that this Organization – in cooperation with other components of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture – can make a great contribution. The European Union – which has just approved a document on the “growing partnership” between the EU and the OSCE and on the modalities to implement it – is well aware that it can rely on this Organization; in turn, the OSCE knows that it can count on the sustained support of the EU.

Today’s meeting will take decisions that will improve the efficacy of this Organization. We expect from it more concrete results, especially with respect to the resolution of the so called “frozen conflicts”: the credibility of the Organization depends on that. The European Union has an interest in their solution and stands ready to provide its support to this end.

The European Union notes with satisfaction the peaceful outcome to the political crisis in Georgia and we welcome the presence here, today, of the Acting Georgian President, Mrs. Nino Burdjanadze. I would also like to thank Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Ivanov for his contribution. The European Union calls on all political actors to continue to show restraint and to refrain from the use of force in the testing times ahead. The European Union stands ready, together with other actors and taking into account the particular role of the OSCE, to assist Georgia in the preparation and conduct of the announced elections.

The European Union welcomes and supports President Voronin’s and the Moldovan Government’s wish to reach a solution to the Transdniestrian problem in close cooperation with the international community, in particular the OSCE. We remain strongly committed to making a positive contribution towards facilitating a settlement within the OSCE framework and to supporting subsequent settlement consolidation and reconstruction.

We should also like to re-emphasise our full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republics of Georgia and Moldova.

The European Union would like to express its disappointment that

more progress has not yet been made with regard to the fulfilment of the commitments which Russia accepted at Istanbul in 1999. It is Russia's responsibility to honour these commitments.

The EU is also concerned that, despite the constructive relations established between the Belarusian authorities and the OSCE office in Minsk, the conditions in which civil society operates have further deteriorated, especially for the media and NGOs. We urge the Belarusian government to comply fully with OSCE principles and commitments, with respect to protection of human rights, democratisation of institutions and development of civil society, and to cooperate with confidence with the OSCE office, especially in the field of human dimension.

The EU would like to highlight the continuing and valuable role which the OSCE plays in the Western Balkans region, consolidating the region's security and stability and reinforcing and complementing the messages of the Thessaloniki European Council.

The European Union encourages the OSCE to continue to develop its work in Central Asia strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights. In this context, we would like to commend the role of President Ahtisaari.

We recognise and appreciate the continuous efforts of the Chairmanship to come to a proper implementation of an understanding with the Russian Federation on a possible future role of the OSCE in Chechnya. Unfortunately, a result has not yet been achieved. We hope that cooperation with the OSCE on this issue will be resumed soon.

Let me also recall that we have made steps towards a new balance between the various dimensions of the concept of "comprehensive security". This will hopefully reinforce our cohesion and sense of ownership in this Organization.

The European Union welcomes the new strategy document on the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the agreement among the 55 on the importance of good governance.

The OSCE has proven its effectiveness in assisting participating States through its Institutions and Field Operations: the keyword of this activity has always been cooperation and it is in this vein that the EU has always perceived the role of the OSCE.

Before concluding, I would like to stress once again the unique

role this Organization plays in promoting cooperation among participating States in all dimensions related to security. The entire OSCE community can benefit from a framework where the pan-European consensus can be built under the common denominator of shared standards of democracy, respect for human rights and common political sense of purpose.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank Minister Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and his staff for their most efficient work, the Dutch Authorities for the perfect organization of this meeting and for their warm hospitality. I would like also to express my best wishes to the incoming Chairman-in-Office, our colleague Solomon Passy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

The Acceding and the Associated Countries to the European Union align themselves with this statement.

Thank you, Mister Chairman.

10<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
PORTO, 6-7 DECEMBER 2002.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERTO ANTONIONE,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,

Italy recognizes itself fully in the Statement delivered by the Danish Presidency of the European Union. On a national basis, I wish to express a few additional considerations.

We are grateful to Minister Martins da Cruz for the commitment and the effectiveness with which he has chaired our Organization during quite a challenging year.

The fight against terrorism remains among the utmost priorities of the international community and of our own organization, as demonstrated by the important document we are about to approve. The Italian government is fully aware of it and committed alongside the countries that comprise the broad alliance created in the wake of September 11. We are persuaded that our organization can play a crucial role in such a combat. Terrorism is a phenomenon that stems from many factors and the activity of the OSCE, as an organization that operates in the three dimensions of security, namely the human, the politico-military and the economic environmental ones, has a special comparative advantage in the common effort undertaken to remove the very causes and not only the symptoms of such a scourge. Furthermore, OSCE benefits from the participation of all the states of the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian space, and its web of field presences allows it to operate in a more capillary manner, stimulating the essential factor that civil societies constitute. OSCE's crucial tasks derive from it, both for purposes of consensus-building and pan-European solidarity, as well as an instrument operating on the innermost causes of instability.

The year about to end has witnessed the conclusion of important developments on the road to Euro-Atlantic integration, bringing with them the need to rethink the overall role of our organization, particularly with respect to the new risks to security. That will be an issue on which we will deal in the months to come, convinced as we are that we will find strategies adequate to render the action of OSCE even more effective.

The European security architecture is evolving toward a more comprehensive maturity. To the benefit of continental stability as well as of the well-being of our people. Given the inclusiveness of its membership, OSCE is an integral part of such a security framework and undertakes tasks that cannot be delegated to others. The Platform on co-operative security approved at Istanbul remains our reference, in order to promote the appropriate synergies with the other International Organizations.

Many expectations are thrust upon our organization which stimulate us to multiply our efforts in specific directions. I have in mind in particular the role of OSCE in conflict resolution, where much still remains to be done. We must operate more effectively not only to avoid that the so-called "frozen conflicts" become also "forgotten", but in order to solve them as soon as possible, demonstrating thereby that our organization is indeed able to perform the role that was attributed to it.

Next year we will also have to complete the task that we have undertaken, and set off to a good start, in order to translate in practical terms a concept of security based on three dimensions: our decision to hold an Annual Security Review Conference, and the reinforcement of our economic and environmental dimension will allow OSCE to operate in a more balanced and therefore more effective manner. Such an approach should also enable OSCE to enhance its role to the benefit of countries that need to speed up the internal processes they have undertaken for institutional and democratic reconstruction, which will in turn promote the achievement of their even greater integration into the OSCE space.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a dossier that is most dear to my country. A country that is geographically and historically more sensitive than others to security issues arising in the Medi-

terranean region. Dialogue with our Mediterranean partners has become more intense in these last years, but we are convinced that much remains to be done in terms of cooperative security, to achieve concrete operational results. To this end, we should work on a format and an agenda for our dialogue that is closer to the interests of our partners, which would encourage them to contribute more actively to it. We are persuaded that European security itself would benefit from such an investment in the future of the Southern Mediterranean.

Lastly, M. Chairman, I wish to assure you that, also in the perspective of its Presidency of the European Union in the second semester of the coming year, Italy will make every effort to support our organization under the Chairmanship of the Netherlands - to which our warmest wishes are addressed - with the same commitment with which we have supported the Portuguese Chair.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

9<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BUCAREST, 3-4 DECEMBER 2001.  
STATEMENT BY MR. MARIO BACCINI,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman in Office,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies, Colleagues,

I wish to add the following national considerations to those just expressed by the Presidency of the European Union, with which we fully concur.

We are grateful to Minister Geoana for the commitment with which he steered the Rumanian year of Chairmanship in Office of our Organization, in an international situation made all the more dramatic by the challenges of international terrorism.

The tragic events of September 11 that still affect our daily lives, and the threat that they constitute for our security, have confirmed the importance of multilateral instruments to expand solidarity, cooperation, and involvement in international relations.

The declaration and plan of action against terrorism submitted to this Ministerial Council are the proof of the extent of our unanimous conviction that security in our continent is indivisible and that an exceptional joint commitment is needed today, if we are to find adequate solutions to the challenges that await us.

Consequently, Mr. Chairman, the need arises for an increased convergence of the specific contribution of every international actor, with the additional requirement to stimulate a broader contribution by civil societies themselves. That is why we feel that OSCE has an important role to play, bringing to bear its added value and full potential.

Our Organization must establish itself as a contributor to cooperation and stability in the European security architecture, and as an effective factor of crisis-prevention and management. Furthermore, on this very task of continental inclusiveness and solidarity, we feel that

OSCE must demonstrate its ability to tackle issues that still need to be solved, by providing any contributions that may prove necessary to advance the relevant negotiating processes.

In the most recent years, OSCE has been incisive and effective, with its field presences providing counsel and assistance for the institutional consolidation and internal reforms in some participating States, on the basis of their consensus. The results of such specific contributions cannot be underestimated.

Mr. Chairman,

our task is not over.

The crises that still beg a solution require renewed efforts in order not to leave serious instabilities unattended. We must therefore continue to contribute to the pursuit of a negotiated solution to persisting conflicts.

On another level, in order to continue along the road that we took together in 1975, we must promote a more substantive political dialogue within OSCE and utilize at its best the potential of our Organization, starting from the Forum on Security Cooperation, as well as develop and consolidate the progress, significant albeit limited, achieved in politico-military matters. What we must achieve is an ever more convincing implementation of the Istanbul commitments, the spreading of confidence-building measures in both their negotiating and monitoring aspects, and the promotion of the perspectives stemming from both the entry into force of the Open-Skies Treaty and the results of the CFE Review Conference.

In more concrete terms, we believe that all of the above will produce not so much a geometric balance between the three dimensions, political, economic and human, as a more shared conviction that cooperative security, transparency, responsibility-taking are integral elements of a common overall political solidarity. Such a cohesion must exist also within our structures, while safeguarding the pluralism of the instruments at our disposal and their necessary flexibility and adaptability to specific situations.

This, Mr. Chairman,

is the meaning that we attribute to the review that the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office has undertaken with great conviction and perseverance to strengthen our structures. However, we are aware that the mere reform of the working mechanisms and the improvement of the coordinating procedures, albeit necessary, are not in themselves sufficient to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

Italy, also in its capacity as a member of the European Union, will work toward that end and will assist the efforts of the incoming Portuguese Chair, to whom we address our most heartfelt good wishes, with the same conviction with which we have supported the initiatives of the Romanian Chair.

8<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
VIENNA, 27-28 NOVEMBER 2000.  
STATEMENT BY MR. UMBERTO RANIERI,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Madame Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to express to you, hosting us so generously in this historic European capital, Italy's gratitude for the way in which the Austrian Presidency of the OSCE, under your expert guidance, has fulfilled its task.

1. Twenty-five years ago the Helsinki Final Act was signed, a milestone in the creation of a new Europe. With that signature, in recognizing fundamental principles freely accepted by all participating states, the CSCE set out to overcome the traditional east-west antagonism, imposing itself as a common European forum for dialogue and political negotiation. After 1990, with the Paris Charter and its new vision of cooperative security, it became the Regional Organization encompassing our continent.

So much has changed during the past 25 years and our organization with it, constantly promoting and adapting to historic events and to dynamic realities. But the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act are still with us to guide our actions. They represent an essential legacy as well as the political framework within which our nations identify themselves, binding us together in a common vision of cooperative security. It is on the basis of these principles that over a decade OSCE has emerged as an International Organization. Last year at the Istanbul Summit it was possible to adopt both the European Security Charter for the XXI Century and the new CFE Treaty, two essential documents in the creation of a new security architecture for our continent.

By setting aside bipolarism and affirming international cooperation, OSCE acquired a range of new responsibilities, codified in the Charter's conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation tasks. Very extensive responsibilities that OSCE cannot

undertake on its own and seeks instead to achieve in cooperation with other European Security Organizations, according to the criteria of mutually reinforcing institutions.

2. Threats to security derive no longer mostly from conflicts between States or military aggressions. The causes of crises either are to be found in transnational phenomena, such as terrorism, illicit drugs and organized crime, or are essentially internal to States, both affecting the individual and his role in society. In this field of human dimension, OSCE has acquired in recent years a clear comparative advantage with respect to other International Organizations, deriving from the activity of its institutions and missions and the experience they gained in the field, in areas ranging from special regard for national minorities to the strengthening of democratic institutions. For their tireless contribution to achieving such outstanding results we give credit to the Representatives of the OSCE institutions, the High Commissioner for National Minorities, Ambassador van der Stoel, who is departing after eight years of invaluable dedication, to the ODIHR Director, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, and to the Representative of the Media, Freimut Duve.

OSCE's most recent commitment to Children in Armed Conflicts, to the control of small arms as well as to the trafficking of human beings, in particular women and children, identifies precisely three pivotal issues, which represent a threat at a global level as well as to individuals and civil society as a whole. Italy, with the strong backing of its public opinion, is particularly sensitive to these issues and therefore ready to grant them its full support. The Organization should devote itself to these issues in the entire OSCE area. This should be achieved in two different ways: firstly, through its normative activity, in establishing the necessary principles by the documents we are about to approve, and secondly in ensuring their effective implementation in the field, especially in crisis areas. It is important that these issues are dealt with in the framework of the Stability Pact, where international cooperation in Southeastern Europe can best be achieved.

France's EU Presidency has already expressed the position of the member states of the European Union. It is important to note that the positions of the EU, as expressed by the Common Foreign and Security Policy, will find special affinities in the OSCE fora and may there-

fore acquire a more meaningful political resonance, well beyond the relationship of the EU with Associated Countries, thereby contributing constructively to political dialogue, in particular in the Permanent Council.

I would like, however, to add another consideration on behalf of Italy. We are living in very intense times, full of events and transformations, spreading with unprecedented speed and intensity throughout our continent, often leaving our citizens confused, in need of new guarantees. It would be appropriate that the Vienna Ministerial Council send all European countries a reassuring message, by re-casting OSCE as the Organization most suited to express the common political will to establish peace and stability in Europe.

3. Let me now express my personal welcome to President Vojislav Kostunica, who leads the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's delegation participating for the first time to the OSCE Ministerial Council, as well as to all the representatives of the nations of the area, who are aware of Italy's commitment and efforts to bring about peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe. With the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, our Organization once again boasts 55 Member States and now includes, among its members, all the actors in the Balkan area. Italy hopes that this event will finally produce the beginning of a virtuous circle in the region. We are convinced that, with the new democratic developments in Belgrade and the positive outcome of the elections in FYROM and Albania as well as in Kosovo, and with the progress, albeit slow, of the stabilisation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all the political conditions for a profitable resumption of political dialogue between all States of the area are coming together. We can only condemn in the strongest terms the senseless acts of violence which still occur in Kosovo, such as the one on the Yugoslav Representative in Pristina, a few days ago. Only a resumption of a meaningful dialogue, as we have witnessed few days ago at the Summit in Zagreb, can bring to this region peace and stability.

OSCE has played a fundamental role in this respect. A role which was recognised in the Dayton Peace Agreements for Bosnia, and by the United Nations in Croatia, Albania and Kosovo. OSCE must continue to play its role, especially within the Stability Pact, in the present phase of post-conflict rehabilitation. Italy has always believed in a re-

gional approach for the stability of South-Eastern Europe. Even outside the framework of OSCE, as you may recall, we always tried to promote such an approach with all the countries of the region, at first with the Central European Initiative and, more recently, with the Adriatic Initiative as well as in the Stability Pact.

4. After the comprehensive statement by the EU Presidency, I would avoid repeating the many regional conflicts and crises areas that the OSCE is called upon to deal with. From Chechnya to Transdnistria to South-Ossetia and Abkhazia, and last but not least to Nagorno-Karabakh. It is indeed important to analyze the developments as well as to ascertain the causes of the often-inadequate results achieved so far. But it might be even more important to study together how to strengthen the action of the OSCE, which added value and which new instruments can be used by our Organization in its attempts to find new solutions.

The same point should be made for two other areas which Italy considers of great importance for the safety and stability of our continent: the Caucasus and the five Central Asian countries. Both areas have complex problems but also an enormous development potential. Italy, in the capacity it has held until a few days ago of President of the Council of Europe, has had the opportunity to devote new attention to them. We believe that the complexity of their problems should be dealt with in a regional context, while taking into consideration individual situations.

5. In order to be consistent with OSCE's global security approach we should not neglect the economic dimension of the Organization, nor the environmental one, closely associated with it, the impact of which is so relevant for the well-being of our citizens. Without the prospect of economic growth, accompanied by the improvement of living standards and combined with effective action against corruption, which represents one of the greatest obstacles to such development, it would be naive to expect progress in crisis areas or permanent solutions to security problems. OSCE must also endeavor to deal actively with these issues.

6. Important developments have taken place at the operational level of the Organization, in the crucial sectors of conflict prevention and crisis management, from the brand-new Operational Centre to the

civilian assistance group (REACT). They represent a new dimension for the OSCE. This progress in the area of peace operations, that the Chairman in Office of the OSCE is setting up, implementing the mandate received by the Istanbul Summit, places our Organization at the forefront of civilian crisis management. A development that should proceed in closer connection with the similar evolution underway in the United Nations and other International Organizations in Europe. The presence with us of the U.N. Deputy Secretary General Amb. Frechette is, in this regard, highly significant.

Such a positive evolution should not however affect the specific nature of the OSCE and its acquisitions as a regional security organization in Europe. It is essential that the OSCE, even with its new operational capabilities, remains above all the indispensable forum for political dialogue and international negotiation, with the primary objective of contributing, together with other European Security Organizations, to the preservation of conditions for peace and stability in our continent.

Let me conclude by renewing my deepest gratitude to our Chairman in office, Mrs. Ferrero Waldner and greeting the Rumanian Foreign Minister, who will have the responsibility of leading the Presidency of the OSCE in the first year of the new century. On behalf of Italy, I wish to assure him of our support and full cooperation.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

7<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
OSLO, 2-3 DECEMBER 1998.  
STATEMENT BY MR. UMBERTO RANIERI,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,

First of all let me express to the Chairman-in-Office, Prof Geremek, the warmest thanks of Italy for the leadership that the Polish Chairmanship, under his careful guidance, has been able to impart to our Organization.

I would also like to formulate my best wishes to Norway which is going to take up the OSCE Chairmanship for 1999 and to ensure to Minister Vollebaeck the full support of the Italian government to assist him in his new, demanding tasks. Norway will be surely able to lead OSCE with the necessary authoritativeness by further promoting its essential role in Europe.

Finally, I wish to express my greetings to the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. This year Jordan has joined MPCs and this bears witness to the interest that OSCE stirs also outside Europe. Further evidence of this is the participation of Japan and the Republic of Korea that we welcome as our partners in this Organization.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Ambassador Aragona. I appreciate his professionalism and commitment shown in assisting the Chairman-in-Office and ensuring a steady and effective activity by the Secretariat. My greetings also go to the High Commissioner for National Minorities, Mr. Van der Stoel, whom I intend to thank for his valuable activity; to the ODIHR Director, Ambassador Stoudmann, to whom I would like to express my appreciation for being able to inject new content to this essential institution; to Mr. Duve who, during his first year of term as Representative for Freedom of the Media, has been able to define an active and pertinent approach to his sensitive task.

Italy fully endorses the declaration made by the Austrian Presidency on behalf of the European Union. However, I would like to add some considerations.

The undeniable competence acquired over the last few years by the Organization at operational level in conflict prevention and crisis management certainly constitutes a new and positive OSCE set of skills, which was not part of the heritage from the CSCE. However, this should not call into question the very nature of OSCE as an international organization for security and cooperation, turning it into a mere agency of services available to the international community. This danger must not be underestimated and is therefore appropriate to reaffirm that in our opinion the OSCE is mainly an essential forum for dialogue and political negotiation. The “normative” dimension remains therefore a crucial and essential aspect of this Organization.

Concerning the Charter on European Security, we have reached a crucial stage of the negotiations. On the one hand, work is well on track on the basic issues of the future Charter and on some of them consensus is already emerging. Among these are important themes such as the development of the Platform of European Security, sub-regional cooperation, assistance in implementation of commitments and police monitoring and training activities. On the other hand, divergences persist on important issues such as peace-keeping, national minorities, certain aspects in the politico-military field. Today, we are called upon to acknowledge the progress achieved and reaffirm our will to ensure that, over the next few months, a text acceptable to all can emerge from debate on these issues. It is therefore appropriate for the Oslo Ministerial Council to give a positive sign of political will and for this Organization to overcome uncertainties finalizing the European Security Charter to be submitted to the Istanbul Summit.

Looking to current times and back to recent past, we must recognise that the OSCE role suddenly and strongly increased as from 1995 with the implementation of the Dayton Agreement and the opening of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia. The latest crises in Europe, ranging from Bosnia to Albania and today Kosovo, have always been met with the opening of new OSCE Missions. This evidences that the international community has now chosen – at operational level – to entrust this Organization with the task and responsibility of their operational management. This is a clear example of implementation of the principle of “comparative advantage” that OSCE, while taking up these tasks, has proved to have thanks to the flexibility of its structure and an unusual

adaptability. In this context, we paid attention to and we appreciated the report of the Secretary General on the strengthening of the Organization.

Historically, the Kosovo Verification Mission is the latest challenge to which OSCE has risen up positively and appears to be by far the most important for OSCE at operational level, also for the political, security and humanitarian aspects involved. This Mission is particularly difficult and its implementation will mark the future relationship between the OSCE and FRY. Italy is strongly committed to this Mission to which it will contribute in several ways: by providing more than 200 people, assuming the responsibility of the Induction Center and participating with its Armed Forces in FYROM within the Extraction Force.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina the OSCE Mission has reached a series of important results. But the Mission has not completed all its tasks. After those relating to the assistance and supervision of elections, other demanding tasks await it, as expressly envisaged by the new mandate: I am referring to the activities designed to favouring the process of democratisation and the protection of human rights.

As to the implementation of agreements on Regional Stabilisation of the Dayton Agreement, it seems to me that General Jean has achieved good results; this will create favourable conditions also for the negotiations on Article V under the chairmanship of Ambassador Jacolin.

In the case of Albania's crisis, so close to Italy, not only geographically, OSCE Presence in Tirana, thanks to the support of the Protection Multinational Force led by Italy, has fulfilled its mandate, by adjusting it to the circumstance and contributing to restore calmness in the country and hold free elections. Now, after the Tirana Conference and the very recent Constitutional Referendum a new stage has started, that is the strengthening of democratic institution and the economic and social reconstruction in that country.

In Croatia, OSCE has been able to live up to the difficult heritage of UNTAES in Eastern Slavonia by promoting wide cooperation with the Zagreb Government to supervise the real reintegration of all refugees in the Croatian society. In this context, the monitoring of the local police forces is relevant: it is a new task that the OSCE has under-

taken for the first time in Eastern Slavonia which is now going to develop also in the Verification Mission in Kosovo.

In this respect, Italy, which is particularly interested to the issue of the training of OSCE personnel in this field, is willing to organize and host in Italy a training course for its personnel next Spring, the terms of which shall be defined with the OSCE secretariat and other participating States concerned.

Beside the Balkans, OSCE still focuses its attention on many other crisis areas ranging from Nagorno-Karabakh (where, in spite of the renewed efforts of the Co-chairmen of the Minsk Group, a constructive negotiation among all Parties has not materialised yet) to Chechnya (where the situation remains seriously unstable), Georgia and Moldova (to which it is appropriate for OSCE to continue paying attention).

Italy views with deep interest the activities carried out by the OSCE Institutions to disseminate knowledge of issue of international concern through conferences and seminars. Among the many recent initiatives, I would like to refer to the one organized in Stockholm on sub-regional cooperation sponsored by the Swedish government. This is an important issue which could be appropriately developed within the OSCE and we hope that this initiative will be followed up.

In the field of arms control, Italy follows with appreciation the important activities of the Forum for Security Cooperation and hopes that concrete results will be soon reached in the negotiation for the revision of the Vienna Document which shall reflect the changed security conditions in Europe by also introducing an aspect of regional security in this context.

As regards the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, I wish to reaffirm that Italy attaches particular importance to the need for rapid progress in the Treaty adaptation process which is underway. It is important to preserve in the future the role of this treaty as a cornerstone of security in the conventional field in Europe. Bearing this in mind, Italy has accepted to play a prominent role in the negotiation within the ad Hoc Group in Vienna, and intends to continue contributing to this negotiation actively.

I wish to conclude by expressing my greetings to the Austrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Schüssel, who, in this Oslo Ministerial Council, becomes member of the Troika. On behalf of Italy, I wish to ensure to

him and to the incoming Chairman-in-Office, Minister Vollebaeck, our support and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6<sup>th</sup> OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
COPENHAGEN, 18-19 DECEMBER 1997.  
STATEMENT BY MR. PIERO FASSINO,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express to you Italy's gratitude and congratulations for the leadership role that the Danish Presidency, under your personal guidance and with the assistance of the "troika" and the Secretary General, has played in our organization.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to Poland and to assure Professor Geremek, who is about to assume the Presidency of the OSCE for 1998, of the complete availability of our country to support him in his new and demanding duty. We are certain that Poland will be able to guide the OSCE with the authority necessary to make the most of its role in Europe and to adequately develop his own operational experience.

Allow me also to welcome the presence of Mr. Javier Ruperez, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: we highly value their support to the activities of our Organization.

In addition, I would like to extend a special greeting to the representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia as well as to those of Japan and the Republic of Korea, who are present here as our partners in the Organization and whose mode of participation we hope we can improve and better define to our mutual advantage. Italy has already provided its contribution to this end, and will continue to actively pursue this process.

I would also like to mention the establishment of an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the candidacy of Mr. Freimut Duve, which this Council is about to nominate. This new institution will work side by side with the Office of the High Commissioner for Minorities, admirably guided by Ambassador Van der Stoel and with the ODIHR, which, under the guidance of its Director Gerard Stoudman, continues to acquire increasing importance.

When, in September of 1996, I had the honour to speak to the Permanent Council of the Organization in Vienna, the OSCE was facing its first tests in Bosnia Herzegovina and it was legitimate to ask whether it would be able to live up to the difficult tasks specifically set for it by the Dayton Peace Accords. Today, with the experience of not less than three elections and its far reaching presence throughout the area, we can affirm that the OSCE has brilliantly surmounted this challenge, which constituted in the eyes of the international community a stringent test of its capabilities and its organizational efficiency.

Let me here express our gratitude to Mrs. Agnelli. Through an extraordinary effort she succeeded to raise the necessary financial resources for the municipal elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We all know how difficult the implementation of the Dayton Agreement is. However, whatever the difficulties, Dayton represents the only possible peace, the peace which exists. It is therefore indispensable a stronger determination of the international Community in order to overcome the obstacles, fully implement the Peace Agreement and call upon the contracting parties of the Agreement to take upon themselves their responsibilities.

In this context, the OSCE has certainly not exhausted its mandate in Bosnia and will rather continue to play a central role. After provision of assistance and supervision of elections, other compelling challenges await the OSCE as foreseen in its new mandate, including in particular the preparation for the September '98 elections and all activities aimed at fostering the democratization process and the protection of human rights.

After Bosnia, the OSCE again had occasion to reaffirm its crisis management ability with its intervention in Albania. In this crisis too, so close (not only geographically) to Italy, the Organization, thanks to the work of Chancellor Vranitsky and to the support of the multinational force, led by Italy, was able to act as coordinator of international aid, which permitted calm to return to the country, the constitution of a government of national unity and the holding of free elections. Now, following the Conference of Rome of October 17 of this year and the Donors Conference, and with the end of the state of emergency, a new phase has begun: that of consolidation of democratic institutions and of the economic and social reconstruction of the country. During this

period, the OSCE's presence on the ground in Tirana will allow it to continue to play this important role of coordinator and to concentrate its activity in Albania on furthering the process of democratization and the protection of human rights.

In Croatia, the OSCE is now called upon to take the place of UNTAES in Eastern Slavonia to oversee the effective return of large flows of refugees in both directions. This will happen in its capacity of regional organization under the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. These three examples demonstrate the remarkable evolution that the OSCE has experienced in the last few years from an operational point of view.

There still remain many other areas of crisis, old and new, from Nagorno Karabakh where, in spite of the renewed efforts by the Minsk Group, a solution is still far away, to the dramatic situation in Chechnya, to Georgia and Moldova, to which the OSCE must dedicate its attention. In these areas, we must recognize that the Missions of the OSCE remain indispensable instruments of the Organization and perform the critical work of early warning and conflict prevention.

Italy intends to support the successful role of the missions as well as to contribute to it assuming the necessary political and operational responsibilities.

Together with the Missions, the OSCE can provide other most valuable instruments to assist the participant States in meeting the standards of democracy and freedom which are recognized in Europe. Difficulties have been recently experienced in opening an Advisory and Monitoring Group of the OSCE in Minsk. We are pleased now to learn that Belarus has accepted to fully cooperate with the OSCE.

It is undeniable that the OSCE has acquired in these last several years an experience and a new capacity which was not part of the legacy of the CSCE, the standard-setting dimension of our Organization nevertheless remains central and indispensable. In fact, the OSCE has among its institutional functions a sharing with other European security organizations in the construction of a European security architecture.

The response of the OSCE to this end, starting with the Budapest Summit of 1994 and renewed last year in Lisbon by our Heads of State and Government, has been to work toward a new Security Model for

the Europe of the XXI century. We are called upon today to take stock of the work completed, to examine the possibilities which are unfolding, and to evaluate the potential for elaborating the guidelines for the future Charter on European Security. We are convinced to be close to the target. It is therefore indispensable that this process be pursued uninterrupted, with a view to taking advantage of what has already been achieved and developing the text of a Charter on European Security for the next OSCE Summit.

Italy has in the past expressed itself in favour of the elaboration of such a Charter, understood as a general frame of reference, in which all the countries of the region with their respective security interests could see themselves and feel themselves as full participants. A political instrument which, in reaffirming the principles of the OSCE, also foresees a reinforcement of our Organization with the object of rendering the OSCE more suitable to confront this new phase of international relations.

The positions of the European Union have been eloquently illustrated by the Luxemburg Presidency, and find in Italy a firm and committed supporter. We would simply like to note here the requirement that in future work on the Charter we continue to address those themes essential for the development and the strengthening of our Organization, such as the "Assistance to compliance" the "Platform for Security Cooperation", which were amply and fully debated.

The elaboration of a Charter of European Security for the twenty-first century is for our Organization a task of particular relevance which therefore cannot be subjected to limitations or be limited by pre-ordained deadlines.

In the field of arms control and measures for confidence building and security, progress achieved to this point appears to us encouraging.

In this regard, we consider a priority the continuation of the work already started toward the adoption of the CFE Treaty. Italy was one of the principal proponents of the need to modernize the Document of Vienna on measures for confidence building and security in order to update the parameters which date back to the Eighties. The decision adopted in this regard by the Security Cooperation Forum at its closing session seems to us an excellent point of departure in this direction.

I would also like to refer to the implementation of the accords previewed by articles II and IV of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Accords. And I would like to extend best wishes to our General Jean, who only recently assumed this responsibility. We believe that the positive results achieved up to this point, thanks to the efforts of Ambassador Krasnay and Ambassador Eide constitute a solid beginning of an exercise intended to activate a fuller process of regional stabilization.

As recently stated in the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in Bonn last week, we hope that this process can begin to be implemented in the framework of the negotiations on Article V. Allow me to express my satisfaction for the agreement on the appointment of Ambassador Henry Jacolin as Special Representative, to whom I would like to extend my best greetings.

At this point, I should like once again to reiterate the firm commitment of Italy to contribute to the strengthening of the OSCE action, through our direct involvement.

Italy is already one of the major financial contributors; with regard to Bosnia-Herzegovina the role of Mrs. Agnelli has been crucial for the success of the OSCE; with regard to Albania, Italy has provided an essential contribution to the OSCE activities. As you know, Italy is particularly attentive and active in former Yugoslavia, in the Balcan region, in the Caucasian region and in Eastern Europe.

We remain ready to provide this Organization with our experience and to take our responsibilities. The Chairman-in-Office may therefore be assured of our firm support.

I would like to close with a salute to the Norwegian Foreign Minister who with this Ministerial Council of Copenhagen joins in the Troika and prepares himself to be the first to assume in 1999 the commitment to guide the OSCE toward the next millennium.

Thank you Mr. President.



## PART IV

### Statements by Italian Delegations at OSCE Summits (1994 - 2021)\*

\* Italian is one the six official languages of the OSCE. All Statements were delivered in Italian.



OSCE SUMMIT MEETING.  
LISBON, 2-3 DECEMBER 1996.  
STATEMENT BY MR. ROMANO PRODI,  
PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY.

Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues,

I would like, first of all, to express my most sincere thanks to President Antonio Guterres for his invitation and to all our Portuguese friends for the hospitality extended to us in this wonderful city.

Switzerland deserves our warmest congratulations. Under its dynamic and impartial Chairmanship, led by Federal Counsellor Flavio Cotti, the OSCE has reached outstanding results.

Let me also wholeheartedly express my best wishes to Denmark, who is about to take up this responsibility in 1997. I would like to extend a special welcome to the representatives of the five Mediterranean Partners for cooperation as well as to Japan and the Republic of Korea, which are our companions on the common path towards the future of OSCE. Two years after the Budapest Summit, we can affirm that OSCE inherited and developed one of the most peculiar and original characteristics of CSCE: that of being at the same time pragmatic in its activities and able to elaborate, in the field of principles, common values that have to be put into practice.

The OSCE must continue to progress in this direction. Many goals are still to be achieved. Allow me to remind you of one of the initiatives currently proposed by Italy: an international moratorium on the death penalty. We are convinced that OSCE must continue to perform as an instrument of concrete political action based upon unanimously accepted principles. For OSCE's future developments it is essential to reiterate the principle of the global and indivisible character of security and that of "OSCE first". The latter principle, still in the process of being established, gives our Organization primary authority and responsibilities at regional level, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the U.N. Charter.

The present configuration of the European security architecture

already shows a clear progress over the past: in fact, it states the right of every country to freely choose its own security arrangements. From this concept, but also from the various local and regional crises and new risks and challenges to peace and security in Europe, the need emerges of a security model for our continent in the XXI century.

I would like to emphasise the innovative nature of this exercise: just as the CSCE contributed to the collapse of the Berlin wall, the OSCE should ensure that no new walls are built up among us. It is in this spirit that Italy, together with its European partners, participated in the elaboration of some new ideas for the future security architecture in Europe. In particular, we consider of paramount importance the inclusion into the model of a system of complementary, coordinated and mutually reinforcing institutions; a system which should ensure that each and every country can see its legitimate security concerns fully recognized.

In our view, we do not need hierarchically ordained institutions but rather a mechanism of coordination and interaction with other organizations and institutions which are complementary to the OSCE itself. Some examples can be given here, also on the basis of the recent experience in Bosnia: NATO, as far as peace-keeping is concerned; the Council of Europe, for the enhancement of democracy; the various international institutions, for the stabilization and post-conflict rehabilitation processes.

In this regard, I would like to recall the message sent to this Summit by the sixteen member States of CEI (Italy among them), which met in Graz on 8 and 9 of November. On that occasion, the CEI has reaffirmed that it fully shares the OSCE principles and reaffirmed its firmest readiness to cooperate.

We do not believe that strengthening the OSCE requires structural changes. It is however necessary to strengthen the OSCE bodies and make them more efficient. This applies, in our view, to the Chairmanship-in-office which, through its close links with the Troika and the Secretary General, represents a wholly original aspect of our Organization; it also applies to the Secretary General, whose role should be enhanced; to the High Commissioner on National Minorities and to the ODIHR.

This Summit should also give further impulse to arms control and

disarmament. The disappearance of bipolarity calls for the adaptation of the CFE Treaty, which remains one of the cornerstones of security in Europe. It shall stand as a central element in the conventional balance in Europe without giving rise to new dividing lines in the OSCE region.

We also believe that in this forum the issue of anti-personnel landmines cannot be ignored. A satisfactory solution of this problem should involve also those countries which produce and export such devices. For this reason, we have proposed the early start, first of all within the Conference on Disarmament, of a negotiation aimed at the banning of anti-personnel landmines. It is highly desirable that an agreement on the total ban be reached.

Crisis management is at the core of OSCE activities. In Chechnya and in Nagorno-Kharabakh the OSCE played, and continues to play, a crucial role. The OSCE commitment in Bosnia has been both a qualitative leap and a challenge. The OSCE has performed well in this task, and this is deeply appreciated by us. However, we cannot leave a job half-done. The principle of extending the military presence of the international community in Bosnia into the next year has been accepted. A further role of a very high level is now to be envisaged for the OSCE in the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement. After contributing significantly to the preparation and conduct of the September 14 elections, the OSCE will be responsible for supervising and assisting in the organization of the forthcoming municipal elections. In this respect, we welcome the acceptance by all the Bosnian parties of this OSCE role.

I take this opportunity to restate that Italy is committed to continue its ongoing efforts: after having sent 2,500 troops as part of IFOR, Italy's efforts will continue to support OSCE activities in view of the necessary political and human rehabilitation of Bosnia.

We are convinced that the OSCE should extend its activities to the whole region of former Yugoslavia. This implies normalising the relationship between the FRY and the OSCE: we look forward to positive developments in this respect. The participation to the OSCE should not be seen as a reward. It rather implies accepting the commitment to adhere to the principles and to comply with the obligations of the Organization. As regards arms control in former Yugoslavia, the Agree-

ment signed in Florence on June 14, 1996 is a further testimony of our commitment. As witnesses, we have helped achieve this important Agreement aimed at bringing about an appropriate balance at sub-regional level in the area, and are actively engaged in its implementation in the field. We believe that the International criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia represents a most valuable instrument at the disposal of the international community. This is why in this forum we reiterate our call to all participating States, and particularly those which have been more involved in the conflict, to fully cooperate with such institution.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I strongly hope that our Organization will confirm itself, in the changed situation of our continent, as an essential institution for promoting and keeping peace and stability in Europe.

OSCE SUMMIT MEETING  
BUDAPEST, 5-6 DECEMBER 1994.  
STATEMENT BY MR. SILVIO BERLUSCONI,  
PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY.

Mr. Chairman,  
distinguished Colleagues,

President Horn has invited me to address the inaugural session of this Summit, and I thank him most sincerely both for this honour and for his superb hospitality.

I have just come back from Naples where I had the honour and opportunity to chair the World Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. A strong signal came from Naples where all participating Countries agreed that: It is necessary to harmonize as soon as possible the basic rules governing both criminal law and law of procedure in other different Countries.

This would require a harmonization of the basic legislations of the different legal systems regardless of different legal theories and traditions possibly working out a common world code encompassing all provisions and strategies to fight organized crime.

The international cooperation will be most effective only when a lowest common denominator among criminal legislations will exist which can, for instance, make international rogatory letters and extraditions easier and smoother.

Another important factor is the widening and improvement of international cooperation for the circulation of information relating to protagonists and activities of criminal organizations even beyond bilateral and multilateral agreements. The aim should be to set up a single information centre, a real worldwide network where every Country can send and get information to and from.

Lastly, another very concrete proposal was made, that is to set up an International High School for the training and updating of

professionals carrying out investigative and judicial activities to fight crime. In this school, techniques and tools should be taught aimed at fighting organized crime in the various sectors.

Italy is willing to provide suitable premises for this School and to set up a “task force” made up by representatives of other Countries. This task force should work out a comprehensive plan from the viewpoint of provisions, costs and funding by 1995.

One year ago in Rome, my Country was entrusted with the prestigious task of Chairman-in-Office of the “new” CSCE as it emerged from its period of gestation, endowed with an array of permanent institutions. Our objective has been to continue and enhance its preventive diplomacy and crisis management role. We pursued this objective also through the work performed with insight and discretion by the High Commissioner on National Minorities, which has become the kingpin for any possible preventive strategy adopted by the CSCE, as well as through the long-term missions aimed at stabilizing and positively influencing difficult political situations in the Continent.

This role has developed in close conjunction with the United Nations, each one complementing the other, originally sharing their duties on a geographic basis, but today increasingly seeking out ways of working in synergy.

In various conflict situations which posed and still pose a threat to the unity and territorial integrity of some participating States – Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan – the CSCE Missions have played a major role in setting negotiating processes in motion, flanking the diplomatic efforts of other entities. Clearly, great attention was paid to and many efforts were made for the two major crises on the Continent.

As to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Italian Chairman-in-Office continued actions aiming at working out the solution acceptable to all parties concerned and at setting up a multinational peace force under the aegis of the CSCE. We do hope that this Summit will approve this initiative.

With reference to the former Yugoslavia, after the serious difficulties the long-term missions met with, the CSCE can be present in the conflict areas and carry out its activity in the sectors more congenial to it, such as the protection of minorities complementing that of other international organizations.

At the same time, the CSCE will have to be provided with the necessary means to contribute, hopefully in the near future, in the institutional reconstruction of those areas torn by war. This subject will as well be certainly widely discussed during this Summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, 5 December 1994, the date on which the CSCE Summit is opening, is also the date on which the CSCE Convention for Conciliation and Arbitration comes into effect, now that twelve instruments of ratification have been deposited. This is an auspicious coincidence for this new instrument for conflict prevention, in which Italy has had great faith since the beginning of the arduous negotiations leading up to the decision adopted in Stockholm. My country is now ready to play a front-line role in implementing the objectives of that Convention.

Lastly, we did believe that a situation of full and stable security for CSCE had necessarily to be accompanied by stronger relations with the Mediterranean region. For this purpose, we have deployed our efforts for a broader involvement in the work of the CSCE by Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Looking further into the future, we believe that the CSCE can make a substantial contribution to peace and stability in that region putting itself forward as a benchmark especially in terms of safety measures in the political, military sectors as well as an organization model for cooperation and security in that area.

And now let us speak of the future.

We all stressed many times that the end of the two blocks and the end of the cold war require us to re-think the instruments and institutions for security.

This Summit could mark an important step forward in the ongoing debate. History provides us with two classical models of conduct in international relations, both negative and both sources of tension: the first isolationism; the second is the rationale of blocks and mutual balance deterrence. Luckily, today it may be possible to have a different, better and more advanced model based on the joint management of every actual or potential conflict by all the States in the region. Is

CSCE an appropriate tool, can it perform this task? We do believe it can.

Within the framework of the European and Transatlantic Organizations, the CSCE has a specific role and originality of its own, and possesses operational capabilities that have not yet been fully exploited. The Budapest Summit can lay the foundations for the CSCE to be developed as a structure, a regional arrangement, a suitable tool that, according to Chapter VIII of the U.N. Charter, could alleviate the awesome duty of the United Nations to guarantee peace and stability.

This could be done in two complementary ways: one could be encouraging a closer cooperation between all the Institutions for security in the Continent, without any one ranking higher than the others; that is a more concrete and stronger cooperation between NATO, NACC, the WEU and the CSCE, which would grant every Country on the Continent a full participation in a common security system.

Furthermore, the Budapest Summit could layout the framework and issue a mandate for the future development of arms control measures in Europe, consolidating the substantial results already achieved with the CFE Treaty, but also making provision for additional measures, especially at the regional level, to gear the continental security system to new situations and new needs as they arise.

In order for these broad objectives to become true a more effective political will by participating States is needed as well as the concrete support by the members of the U.N. Security Council. As of January, 1st next year Italy will be one of them and will work for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman,  
distinguished colleagues,

the fact that the CSCE was up to now only partially successful in crises management and conflict resolution does not imply a weak vocation in these areas. Rather, these results demonstrate that a strengthening of the CSCE is useful.

I am confident that the Budapest Summit will set that “virtuous circle” in motion, starting with the political will of increasing human and financial resources – so to act more effectively. This in turn will enhance the CSCE capability of action and its credibility.

Hence, the participating States will be spurred to step up their commitment.

Together with this hope, I would like to express my very best wishes to the new Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE. He is about to shoulder a task which will require all those qualities of imagination, energy and faith which the young Hungary is so largely endowed with. As a member of the Troika, Italy is ready and willing to provide all of its support.

The feeling with which we hand the Chair to President Horn is a belief which moved from our mind to our heart during our Chairmanship: we must believe in this CSCE, we must help this instrument of peace, security and welfare to progress in the interest of all Peoples of our Continent.

I wish you all a successful work.



# APPENDIX



## APPENDIX I

### LIST OF OSCE SUMMIT MEETINGS (1994-2023)

*Budapest, 5-6 December 1994*

Budapest Document 1994: Towards a Genuine Partnership  
in a New Era

*Lisbon, 2-3 December 1996*

Lisbon Document 1996

*Istanbul, 18-19 November 1999*

Istanbul Document 1999

*Astana, 1-2 December 2010*

Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security  
Community

APPENDIX II

LIST OF OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS  
(1991-2023)

The first meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) took place in Helsinki from 3 to 7 July 1973. The Ministerial Council was established in 1990 by the “Charter of Paris for a New Europe”.

1<sup>st</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Berlin - 19-20 June 1991  
Supplementary Ministerial Meeting, Moscow - 10 September 1991

2<sup>nd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Prague - 30-31 January 1992  
Supplementary Ministerial Meeting, Helsinki - 24 March 1992

3<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Stockholm - 14-15 December 1992

**4<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Rome - 30 November - 1 December**

**1993**

5<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Budapest - 7-8 December 1995

6<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Copenhagen-18-19 December 1997

7<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Oslo - 2-3 December 1998

8<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Vienna - 27-28 November 2000

9<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Bucharest - 3-4 December 2001

10<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Porto - 6-7 December 2002

11<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Maastricht - 1-2 December 2003

12<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Sofia - 6-7 December 2004

13<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Ljubljana - 5-6 December 2005

14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Brussels - 4-5 December 2006

15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Madrid - 29-30 November 2007

16<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Helsinki - 4-5 December 2008

17<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Athens - 1-2 December 2009

18<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Vilnius - 6-7 December 2011

19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Dublin - 6-7 December 2012

20<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Kiev - 5-6 December 2013

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- 21<sup>st</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Basel - 4-5 December 2014  
22<sup>nd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Belgrade - 3-4 December 2015  
23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Hamburg - 8-9 December 2016  
24<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Vienna - 7-8 December 2017  
**25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Milan - 6-7 December 2018**  
26<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava - 5-6 December 2019  
27<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Tirana - 3-4 December 2020  
28<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Stockholm - 2-3 December 2021  
29<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Łódź - 1-2 December 2022  
30<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council, Skopje - 30 November - 1 December 2023

**Note: in bold the Italian Chairmanships of the OSCE.**

APPENDIX III

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALY  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)  
(1993-2024)

With the title and rank of Ambassador:

Mario Sica	26 November 1993
Carlo Civiletti	24 March 1997
Guido Lenzi	1 October 2000
Francesco Bascone	23 August 2004
Gianfranco Varvesi	20 December 2008
Giulio Tonini	1 June 2011
Vittorio Rocco di Torrepadula	8 July 2013
Alessandro Azzoni	8 July 2016
Stefano Baldi	4 January 2021

APPENDIX IV

OSCE SECRETARIES-GENERAL  
(1993-2024)

Wilhelm Höynck (Germany): June 1993 - June 1996

Giancarlo Aragona (Italy): June 1996 - June 1999

Ján Kubiš (Slovak Republic): June 1999 - June 2005

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (France): June 2005 - June 2011

Lamberto Zannier (Italy): July 2011 - June 2017

Thomas Greminger (Switzerland): July 2017 - July 2020

Helga Maria Schmid (Germany): from December 2020

APPENDIX V

ODIHR DIRECTORS  
(1991-2024)

Luchino Cortese (Italy): 1991 - 1994

Audrey Glover (United Kingdom): 1994 - 1997

Gerard Stoudmann (Switzerland): 1997 - 2002

Christian Strohal (Austria): 2003 - 2008

Janez Lenarčič (Slovenia): 2008 - 2014

Michael Georg Link (Germany): 2014 - 2017

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland): 2017 - 2020

Matteo Mecacci (Italy): since 2020

APPENDIX VI

OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONERS  
ON NATIONAL MINORITIES  
(1992-2024)

Max van der Stoep (Netherlands): 1992 - 2001

Rolf Ekeus (Sweden): 2001 - 2007

Knut Vollebaek (Norway): 2007 - 2013

Astrid Thors (Finland): 2013 - 2016

Lamberto Zannier (Italy): 2017 - 2020

Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan): since 2020

APPENDIX VII

OSCE REPRESENTATIVES  
ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA  
(1998-2024)

Freimut Duve (Germany): 1998 - 2004

Miklós Haraszti (Hungary): 2004 - 2010

Dunja Mijatović (Bosnia and Herzegovina): 2010 - 2017

Harlem Désir (France): 2017 - 2020

Teresa Ribeiro (Portugal): 2020

## APPENDIX VIII

MOST COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS  
IN THE OSCE

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>English</b>
ABL	Administrative Boundary Lines
ACMF	Advisory Committee on Management and Finance
AML	Anti-money laundering
AIAM	Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting
API	Advanced Passenger Information
APCG	Asian Partners for Cooperation Group
ASRC	Annual Security Review Conference
ATU	Action against Terrorism Unit
BMSC	Border Management Staff College (Dushanbe)
BSMU	Border Security Management Unit
BSS	Biological Safety and Security
CBMs	Confidence Building Measures
CCA	OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration
CCC	Common Corporate Costs
CD	Constituent Document for the OSCE
CFE	Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (Treaty on)
CFT	Combating the financing of terrorism
ChO	Chairperson-in-Office
CLS	Conference and Language Services (part of OSG)
CMT	Crisis Management Team
CoC	Code of Conduct
CoE	Council of Europe
COMMS	Communication and Media Relations Section
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CRMS	Common Regulatory Management System
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe

CSBMs	Confidence- and Security-Building Measures
CSO	Committee of Senior Officials
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSS	Chemical Safety and Security
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CT	Counterterrorism
DD	Draft Decision
delweb	Delegates' Website
DHR	Department of Human Resources
DMF	Department of Management and Finance
DC	Draft Convention
EEAS	European External Action Service
EEC	Economic and Environmental Committee
EECP	Entry-Exit Checkpoints
EED	Economic and Environmental Dimension
EEDIM	Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting
EEF	Economic and Environmental Forum
EESC	Economic and Environmental Subcommittee (now EEC)
EOM	Election Observation Mission
ES	Executive Structures
EU	European Union
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
EU PSC	European Union Political and Security Committee
ExB	Extra-budgetary
FAI	Financial/Administrative Instruction
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FAU	Fund Administrative Unit
FSC	Forum for Security Cooperation
GAP	OSCE 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEAP	Gender Equality Action Plan
GFP	Gender Focal Point
GID	Geneva International Discussions

## APPENDIX

GUAM	Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
HDC	Human Dimension Committee
HDIM(s)	Human Dimension Implementation Meeting(s)
HDS	Human Dimension Seminar
HLMDS	High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar
HLPG	High Level Planning Group
HoM(s)	Head(s) of Mission(s)
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IFC	Informal Financial Committee (now ACMF)
ILP	Intelligence-Led Policing
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (Treaty)
IPRM	Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
IRMA	Integrated Resource Management System
ISB	Informal Subsidiary Body
IWG	Informal Working Group
JCCC	Joint Control and Coordination Commission
JCG	Joint Consultative Group (CFE Treaty)
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission
LS	Language Service Section (of Conference and Language Services)
MAU/CLS	Meetings Assistance Unit of Conference and Language Services
MC	Ministerial Council
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGCC	Minsk Group Co-Chairs
MOs	Monitoring Officers
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
N4	Normandy Four
NAM	Needs Assessment Mission
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
OC	Organized Crime
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
OCGc	Organized Crime Groups
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OIO	Office of Internal Oversight
OM	Observer Mission
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
OS	Operations Service (part of the CPC)
OSCC	Open Skies Consultative Commission
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSG	Office of the Secretary General
OSR/CTHB	Office of the SR/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PBPB	Performance Based Programme Budgeting
PBPR	Programme Budget Performance Report
PC	Permanent Council
PCU	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
PESU	Programme Evaluation and Support Unit (part of the CPC)
PMD	Politico-Military Dimension
PNR	Passenger Name Record
PO	Programme Outline
POiB	OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek
POiN	OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan
PR	Personal Representative
PrepComm	Preparatory Committee
PSO	Protective Services Officer
pS(s)	Participating State(s)
PSS	Policy Support Service (part of the CPC)
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

## APPENDIX

RevCon	Review Conference (in the year of an OSCE Summit)
RFOM	Representative on Freedom of the Media
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SBD	Scenario-based discussion
SC	Security Committee
SCA	Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
SHDM	Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
SG	Secretary General
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPMU	Strategic Police Matters Unit
SR	Special Representative
SRA	Security Risk Assessment
SRSR	Staff Regulation and Staff Rules
SS	Shared Services
SSC	Shared Services Center
SSG/R	Security sector governance and reform
TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
TOC	Transnational Organized Crime
ToT	Training of Trainers
TRRIP	Transparency, Risk Reduction and Incident Prevention
UAVs	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UB	Unified Budget
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VERLT	Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WAE	Weapons, Ammunitions and Explosives
WEU	Western European Union
WG	Working Group

WGS	Working Group on Security Issues
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
ZNG	Zero Nominal Growth
ZRG	Zero Real Growth

## Collana Memorie e studi diplomatici

- 1) Gabriele Paresce, *Memorie di un diplomatico. Londra, Washington, Seoul (1931-1966)* (a cura di Giuseppe Spagnulo), 2023.
- 2) Stefano Baldi (edited by), *Inside the OSCE. Papers from the seminars for Italian Universities on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*, 2023.
- 3) Federica Onelli, Bahija Simou, Luciano Monzali, *I rapporti tra Italia e Marocco nel XIX secolo. Dall'Italia a Tangeri, da Tangeri all'Italia*, 2023.
- 4) Stefano Baldi, Massimo Drei, Vito Mosè Pierro, *Italy in the OSCE, Italian Initiatives and Statements at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*, 2024.

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La collana “Memorie e studi diplomatici”, diretta da Stefano Baldi, è dedicata a valorizzare figure ed attività della diplomazia italiana attraverso testimonianze e ricerche condotte da studiosi e storici.

Italy is among the five largest contributing countries to the OSCE both financially and in terms of human resources made available to the Organization. These simple figures alone highlight the prominent role of Italy within the OSCE. However, little is known about a number of activities in certain sectors and countries in which Italy, often through the funding of specific projects, is involved.

This publication provides information about the OSCE and the role Italy plays today and has played in the past within the Organization.

**Stefano Baldi, Massimo Drei and Vito Mosè Pierro** are the Italian diplomats currently working at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna.

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