

ADDRESS
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus,
the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic,
the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan
and the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels

We note that since the adoption of the CIS Declaration and Appeal on the state of affairs within the OSCE in 2004, the understanding of the need to reform this pan-European Organization has been widely spread among its participating States.

The adoption by the 2005 OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana of the Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE has played a catalytic role for the ongoing discussion on the ways and directions of the OSCE reform this year.

We believe that the relevance of the OSCE for all its members, the political future of the Organization, including its ability to play a truly crucial role in the modern architecture of the European, Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security, shall indeed be determined by the effectiveness of the reform process and quality of the decisions of the OSCE Brussels Ministerial.

It is a matter of concern and disappointment that the interests of the OSCE participating States are now largely realized through other mechanisms of international cooperation. The OSCE capacity and instruments are often used as mere measures supplementary to the actions already approved within other formats.

A considerable revision of the operational activities and the OSCE structure is necessary. It is essential to finalize the process of its transformation into an international organization, to draft a Charter and to adopt a Convention that would provide a legal personality to the reformed OSCE.

We emphasized that along with their "mandatory autonomy" all OSCE institutions are structural units of the Organization, financed from the budget and accountable to the OSCE decision-making bodies. Politically and administratively institutions' activities have to be organically built into the Organizations' work and guided by the common rules and requirements adopted by the participating States, and to be implemented through the programme budgetary planning by the collective governing OSCE bodies.

We consider increasing the effectiveness and transparency of budgetary and extra-budgetary financing of the OSCE as well as adjusting the OSCE budgetary planning

to better correspond the political guidelines given by the OSCE Ministerial Council as integral elements of the OSCE reform.

In accordance with the second paragraph of the Ljubljana decision the activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) need a significant adjustment.

We call to adopt a decision on elaborating concrete instructions to the ODIHR to submit the election methodology to be approved by the OSCE participating States. We believe that monitoring activities should be implemented not on the basis of the Offices' internal instructions, but to be accountable to the Permanent Council.

We expect that based on the scheduled report of the ODIHR to the OSCE Ministerial in Brussels an appropriate MC decision will be taken, that will ensure that the activities and decision-making procedures within the Office shall be brought in a better correspondence with the generally recognized OSCE principles.

An important priority within the Organizations' reform is the implementation by the OSCE field missions of their tasks for transmitting to the host countries of experience in dealing with issues within their mandates, followed by the gradual completion of the OSCE field activities in its actual form, in line with Para 41 of the Charter for European Security.

We consider the issue of the OSCE Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in 2009 as an integral part of the Organization's reform, as ensuring in practice the equality of all its members and the geographical balance within Organization, as overcoming the dividing lines, and stereotypes of non-confidence and suspicion of the Cold War era.

We hope that the decisions of the forthcoming Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will give a new impetus and positive dynamics to the evolution and renovation of the Organization, thus allowing it to retain its unique role and importance of a forum for an equal dialogue and significant international instrument to ensure comprehensive security and stability.

3 December 2006