

**Address**  
**by H.E. Adrian CIOROIANU,**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

ENGLISH only

*on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council  
Madrid, 29-30 November 2007*

**Mr. Chairman-in-Office,  
Secretary General,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to extend to the Spanish Government my sincere thanks for the warm hospitality we have received here in Madrid and for the excellent organization of this Meeting. Let me also commend you, dear Minister Moratinos, for your successful Chairmanship, which is as well an excellent example of the vibrant Latin dimension of the OSCE.

My country fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union. I would like to elaborate, in my national capacity, on some particular issues that lie at the very heart of the foreign policy of Romania.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The OSCE has deployed, in 2007 as well, a great deal of efforts for ensuring the progress of security and stability in Europe.

In this context, we appreciate the fact that the OSCE was recently able to finalize the text of the ***Convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE***. When adopted, this Convention will certainly enhance the good functioning of our organization as well as its positioning among other international organizations.

**Dear Colleagues,**

In our view, the OSCE remains the inclusive and comprehensive organization which offers to all participating states a platform more viable than ever to consult, decide and cooperate in addressing their legitimate security interests and concerns.

The OSCE also remains a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the Euro-Atlantic area. It is natural to offer the OSCE the political support and the appropriate tools for fulfilling its tasks.

I would like to lay a special emphasis on **the need for the OSCE to ensure the wide observance of its set of commitments** that were adopted on the solid basis of consensus rule. The actual implementation of the commitments entered into by each and every Participating State is therefore critical for the successful work of the OSCE.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are all now at a crucial juncture in our efforts of maintaining **the CFE regime** and securing its contribution to the European security. Any endeavor to save the CFE regime will ever be successful if only its integrity is secured and, no State Party will take any steps that could undermine it.

Allow me to join others in urging the Russian Federation not to pursue its announced intention to suspend the implementation of the CFE Treaty and to continue the efforts aimed at finding a way forward. Any such unilateral action, if taken, will make our goals of transparency and confidence in Europe more difficult to achieve.

Romania reaffirms the relevance of the CFE regime for the Euro-Atlantic security, underlining its valuable contribution to the strengthening of transparency, predictability and confidence in Europe.

We attach great importance to the entering into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty, as it is designed to further strengthen the security and stability in Europe, through increased transparency and predictability, and to reflect the current political and security realities. It also takes forward core principles, such as the host country consent for the presence of foreign troops on its territory.

At the same time, Romania, alongside other OSCE participating States, has consistently advocated for a clear conditionality between the entering into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty and the fulfillment of the Istanbul commitments, including the complete withdrawal of the Russian forces and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Georgia. This has been our longstanding position on this issue, and it continues to be so.

Romania expressed in many instances particular concern over the protracted resolution of the **Transnistrian conflict**. Let me reiterate Romania's strong supports for a sustainable, lasting and comprehensive political settlement to the Transnistrian conflict, with the respect of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

We acknowledge the continuous dedicated involvement of the OSCE in the settlement efforts and we hope that the "5+2" format will produce concrete results.

Our support for the democratic development of the Republic of Moldova, based on rule of law, respect for human rights, good governance and solid institutions, remains unchanged.

In the case of **Georgia**, we welcome the positive steps achieved in the process of withdrawal of the Russian military bases in Batumi and Akhalkalaki. At the same time we express the hope that progress can be made also on the case of the Gudauta military base. Waiting for progress in this field, Romania reaffirms its support for Georgia's territorial integrity and its legitimate right to exercise full sovereignty over its entire territory.

As for the **conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh**, we note that, despite expectations raised by the positive climate at the time of the 2006 OSCE Ministerial, a breakthrough in the settlement process was not possible in 2007. However, the recent assessment presented in Vienna by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, encourage us to hope that the parties to the conflict will be in a position to endorse, after the electoral year 2008, the basic principles of the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement as proposed by the Co-Chairs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our meeting takes also place in a moment of particular relevance for another area of special concern for the OSCE, i.e. **South Eastern Europe**. We think that a lasting settlement for **Kosovo** is of critical importance for the entire region. We also believe that such a solution must be consistent with the principles of international law and the requirement to guarantee the multi-ethnic character of that province, the observance of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the protection of the cultural, historical and religious heritage of Kosovo.

Romania believes that, without interfering with the current UN-mandated Contact Group troika process, it is important to continue the future involvement of the OSCE in Kosovo. In doing so, we have also in mind that the mandate of the current OSCE Mission refers to a series of relevant issues – like minorities protection, developing civil society or administrative capacity building for the Kosovo municipalities – which will be decisive for a peaceful and democratic evolution in Kosovo and in the region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The **Human Dimension** of the OSCE is an area to which my country attaches a particular importance.

We welcome the OSCE increasing attention devoted to **tolerance and non-discrimination** issues. After outstanding achievements obtained in the last four years as a consequence of the several OSCE conferences held on various forms of intolerance and discrimination, it was the turn of Bucharest to host, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, the *OSCE High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding - follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance*. The Bucharest Conference acknowledged that manifestations of intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism persist at some levels of our societies and called on Participating States to reiterate their firm commitment to fight against these phenomena. The message of the Bucharest Conference -“zero tolerance towards discrimination and intolerance” - encompassed the understanding that the primary responsibility for addressing such acts and attitudes rests with Participating States and their political leaders.

The Conference underlined furthermore the **need to ensure more effective participation of Roma and Sinti in pluralistic societies**, by means of implementing the *Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area*. This rests a sensitive area where progress is still very much needed. We therefore welcome the choice of the Finnish incoming Chairmanship in Office to place this issue among its priorities.

We share the view that **ODIHR**, in accordance with its mandate, has a crucial role to play in making the OSCE an area of shared democratic values. We commend the work done by this institution and the dedicated activity of its director, Ambassador Christian Strohal. We see elections observation as a defining feature of the ODIHR mandate, since only free and fair elections can guarantee democracy and political stability, as pillars of a climate of security and trust. We call for all Participating States to stay open to monitoring of their elections, according to commitments we have undertaken under the 1990 Copenhagen Document and further decisions of our organization.

Holding the view that the **High Commissioner on National Minorities** plays a key role in ensuring democratic security in the OSCE area, by preventing conflicts related to interethnic tensions, we congratulate Ambassador Knut Vollebaek for assuming this important position and would like to assure him of Romania's cooperative support for his activity.

**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Dear Colleagues,**

At the end of my intervention, I would like to wish every success to the incoming **Finnish OSCE Chairmanship in 2008**. I look forward to cooperating closely next year with Minister Ilkka Kanerva and his team, both in Vienna and in different other places relevant for the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.