



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Seilerstätte 17/ St. 2 /8-9
1010 Vienna

Phone: + 43-1-512.85.66
Fax: + 43-1-512.90.57
E-mail: mpromviena@mprom.at
www.mpviena.mae.ro
www.mae.ro

Presentation
by Ambassador Cristian Istrate,
Chairperson of the Security Committee,
to the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security of
the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- 26 February 2016 -

Chairman Wicker,
Honorable Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

It is a great honor for me to address again the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security in my capacity as Chairperson of the OSCE Security Committee and introduce our Work Programme for 2016, which reflects the German CiO's priorities in the field of countering transnational threats.

Since my presentation last year, the overall political and security situation in the OSCE area continued to raise serious concerns. Against the backdrop of ongoing crisis in and around Ukraine and existing protracted conflicts, an unprecedented level of the terrorist threat and an outburst of the migrants and refugees crisis called for immediate response.

Our Organization is uniquely placed to address current challenges banking on the expertise of its dedicated Secretariat, autonomous institutions and field presences. The solid network of partnerships is yet another valuable asset, alongside with the contribution that you, the OSCE PA, are bringing when meeting in sessions, but also in your daily work in service of peoples from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The 2015 Helsinki Declaration of the Parliamentary Assembly, which recalled the fundamental values and principles of the OSCE, is a beacon of inspiration for our endeavors. From this perspective, the special focus on **migration** of this Winter Meeting is most welcome as it provides an excellent and timely opportunity to address such a major development.

The OSCE comprehensive approach to security, encompassing politico-military, economic and environmental, as well as human dimensions of security, provides a platform for dialogue and interaction on migration related issues. Building upon the work done last year, the Security Committee will debate the potential of regional cooperation in addressing illegal migration security related challenges and also the nexus between trafficking in Human Beings and illegal migration, bearing in mind the importance of promoting human-rights compliant approaches.

In my view, the OSCE could add value through banking on existing expertise related to border management, policing, countering transnational organized crime and its connections with trafficking in Human Beings and smuggling of migrants, in order to encourage fullest implementation of respective commitments undertaken by participating States. We need the support of national Parliaments in this regard!

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished audience,

The Ministerial Council in Belgrade confirmed that **terrorism** remains a prevailing concern for participating States and their citizens, and called to step up efforts to counter this scourge. The Declarations adopted in Belgrade on preventing and countering VERLT, and reinforcing efforts to counter terrorism add to existing commitments on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the Kidnapping for Ransom adopted in Basel and complete the picture of the OSCE *acquis*.

The Parliamentary Assembly's work last year reflected also the preoccupation for the unprecedented growing threat of terrorism and radicalization. Let me recall in this respect the adoption in Helsinki of a Resolution on a Comprehensive Legislative Reform on Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the OSCE area.

However, if we are to be successful in identifying effective responses to terrorism, it is essential to translate words into action. The implementation of OSCE commitments should remain an integral part of our efforts to counter terrorism as a shared responsibility. Last year, I informed you about the Security Committee undertaking a concrete role in supporting the implementation of commitments through voluntary reporting by the participating States. We are going on with this exercise, while drawing a synopsis of best practices out of it, which should reinforce action in this field.

The Parliamentary Assembly and its members are in a unique position to promote the implementation of OSCE commitments at national level. Your legislative and oversight functions are part of our strength the same way the work with civil society

gets us closer to reaching out to people with the message of countering radicalization.

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished audience,

Besides migration and terrorism, **cyber** issues is yet another important focus area. The OSCE has positioned itself as a frontline actor in adopting confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Many of us still remember yet another superb example of shared responsibility, provided by the adoption of the initial set of OSCE cyber CBMs back in 2013, which was encouraged by the PA's Resolution on cyber security, passed at the Istanbul Annual Session.

Earlier this month, following intensive work by the German CiO and the US Chair of the Informal Working Group, participating States reached provisional agreement on cyber CBMs additional to the ones adopted in 2013. This highlights a common understanding of the need to advance the OSCE work to the benefit of transparency, cooperation and stability. Following CiO's priorities, the Security Committee is going to address the cross-dimensional nature of cyber issues, as well as the broader perspective of preventing crisis related to the use of ICTs.

Besides these key priorities, we shall tackle **other topics of interest**, such as Security Sector Governance and Reform, confidence building through intelligence-led policing or countering illicit drugs.

This is to say, by way of conclusion, that the Security Committee stands ready to provide a substantive contribution in support of fulfilling the OSCE mandate on countering transnational threats.

I hope that our debate will send a clear, strong message about the joint determination to respond effectively and efficiently to present challenges. In times of uncertainty and unrest, the OSCE spirit of dialogue and cooperation is needed more than ever. We must listen to each other and work in synergy between governments and parliaments in order to live up to expectations peoples from Vancouver to Vladivostok placed in this Organization. We should not fail!

Thank you!