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S T A T E M E N T

**By H.E. Mr. C. SIMITIS,
PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE
TO THE OSCE SUMMIT IN LISBON**

DECEMBER 3, 1996



Mr. Chairman,

It is an honour for me to address this distinguished forum and to share with you some thoughts on the OSCE.

Let me start by thanking the Portuguese Authorities for their cordial hospitality in this historical and beautiful city of Lisbon, I also wish to address my warmest congratulations to Switzerland for accomplishment of their difficult task as Chairman in Office. Our best wishes are also extended to the new Chairman, Denmark, for every success in their endeavours.

As Ireland, on behalf of the European Union, has stated, the OSCE is becoming a key institution in dealing in cooperation with other Organizations with multiple and complex problems related to security and stability in Europe, whose preservation will continue to be our Organization's primary concern.

We reaffirm the pivotal importance of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the set of norms, principles and commitments that constitute the very foundation of the OSCE. These fundamental texts form the basis of the dialogue through which we should address the notion of security in a comprehensive, indivisible and cooperative manner. They are of particular importance today when the impressive developments of the beginning of the

nineties highlight the need to find a new golden rule of coexistence of the European peoples. A golden rule aiming at compromising the need to maintain the territorial integrity and political independence of the States, together with the need to protect the particularity of certain populations living within their borders. This protection of particularity should be extended, while provisions should continue to guarantee the territorial integrity of the States within their existing borders. All OSCE organs and institutions should participate in the building of a safer Europe. They should address, within their respective mandates, threats and challenges which do appear in the everyday life of the International Community in an appropriate manner so as to prevent them from degenerating into confrontation and, worse still, into conflict. In this respect, OSCE is called to play a unique role in the peaceful settlement of disputes through early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation.

OSCE missions have proved their efficiency in fulfilling their respective mandates. In particular, the involvement of OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a sterling example of the important role it can play in the resolution of conflicts. Greece greatly appreciates and actively supports the OSCE's activities in the former

Yugoslavia. She has participated in IFOR and is ready to take part in the International effort for the post-war reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The OSCE is deeply involved in the defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms through the implementation of its norms and principles, thus ensuring the observance of democratic values and the rule of law in our societies. In this context, we greatly appreciate and support the valuable work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Participating States should make full use of existing OSCE mechanisms and institutions for the peaceful settlement of disputes. We should give thorough consideration to the vast array of instruments at our disposal in order to address and resolve the complex challenges to our security, arising not only from ethnic tensions and from abuses of human rights but also from such growing problems as weapons proliferation, international crime, drug trafficking, uncontrolled migration and environmental threats.

An important process on the European security in the 21st century is under way. The "Declaration on a Security Model for the 21st century" constitutes a solid basis

for the future agenda to meet risks and challenges from the Atlantic to the Urals. In this context, I am confident that the Security Model will have a successful outcome, thus finding appropriate ways for its insertion in the right place of the European security architecture.

Greece, as a C.F.E. State-Party, notes with great satisfaction the adoption by the Joint Consultative Group of the Document on the Scope and Parametres of the adaptation process of this most important Treaty for security and stability in the field of conventional arms in Europe. While this process is set to adapt the Treaty to the new political realities in our Continent it will also have to maintain the vital acquis of the Treaty in the areas of mutual confidence, transparency, stability and predictability. The adaptation process must reconfirm the CFE Treaty's key role as the cornerstone of European security.

Mr. Chairman,

Recognizing the interdependence of the OSCE and neighboring areas, we attach great importance to the deepening of the relations of the OSCE with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. The existing dialogue with these States on issues of common interest

should be further enhanced, thus fostering mutual understanding and reflecting a relationship based on comprehensive cooperation and solidarity. The Corfu Council Declaration of 1994 is a prime example of our desire to promote, within the European Union, cooperation among countries in the Mediterranean area, a region closely connected with the OSCE's security concerns.

Greece's policy in South Eastern Europe is based on the respect of the territorial integrity of all States and the principle of non interference in a country's internal affairs. We believe that problems should be solved through peaceful means, in particular through the International Court of Justice, on the basis of International Law, while refraining from threats of the use of force, which is illegal under General International Law. We are actively involved in regional initiatives which promote stability and good neighborliness, such as the Royaumont initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and initiatives developing Balkan cooperation. In the framework of the Royaumont initiative, during a recent meeting in Athens, Greece and the Russian Federation have proposed high level political consultations with the participation of Balkan and other interested countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Our objective is to see all our neighbors firmly anchored in the family of democratic nations, respecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, sharing the values of pluralistic democracy, rule of law, genuine respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in a environment free from tensions, conflicts and threats.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.