

STATEMENT BY HON. MARIO BACCINI
Under-secretary of State to the Foreign Ministry of Italy
to the Ministerial Council of the OSCE
(Bucharest, 3-4 December 2001)

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 Organisation, 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, co-operation 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 Organisation must establish itself as a contributor to co-operation 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 utilise at its best the potential of our Organisation, starting from the Forum on Security Co-operation, as well as develop and consolidate the progress, significant albeit limited, achieved in matters politico-military. 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 co-operative 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 Rumanian 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 co-ordinating 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 Rumanian Chair.