

## Declaration of the 10th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (Oporto, 7 December 2002)

**Caption:** Declaration of the 10th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Oporto on 7 December 2002.

**Source:** Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council 6 and 7 December 2002, MC.DOC/1/02. Porto: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 07.12.2002. 96 p. [http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/2002/12/4174\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/2002/12/4174_en.pdf).

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## Porto Ministerial Declaration (7 December 2002) Responding to Change

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, have met in Porto and reaffirmed our determination to work together to protect our peoples from existing and emerging threats to security. The evolving political, security and economic environment creates new challenges for the OSCE. As we advance in the new century, we see these challenges more clearly and the OSCE's unique contribution to an international community in which all nations and individuals can feel secure becomes ever more valuable. We have a historic opportunity to consolidate lasting peace, prosperity and democracy throughout a Europe which is becoming ever more united.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to promote security and co-operation throughout an OSCE area with no dividing lines, by building mutual confidence and working together to resolve security issues in a spirit of transparency and partnership. Our efforts will be complemented by those of other international organizations and institutions with which we will co-operate closely, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.
3. At the same time, our Organization must develop new responses to the changing nature of the threats to our security, embracing and enhancing all three dimensions of our comprehensive approach. Our efforts to promote peace and stability must go hand in hand with our determination to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and to reinforce the conditions essential for sustainable development in all our States.
4. Terrorism, as recent terrorist acts like the hostage-taking in Moscow demonstrate, remains a threat to individual and global security. The Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism which we have adopted today sets out the principles of our common approach to terrorism. Last year, in Bucharest, following the events of 11 September, we adopted a Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, and today we have decided to further intensify our efforts to implement it.
5. In order to ensure that the OSCE can effectively respond to present and future demands, we have concluded that it should continue to develop during 2003 a strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century. The OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, on which we have decided today, will provide a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States. We have also decided to review the OSCE role in peacekeeping operations, with a view to assessing the OSCE's capacity and identifying options for its involvement in this field.
6. Good policing can make a major contribution to security and stability. We confirm that the OSCE should continue to develop its capacity to assist participating States wishing to strengthen their policing skills and we encourage participating States to provide the necessary resources.
7. Today we have decided to develop a new strategy during 2003 to enhance the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension that will set out the objectives, principles, criteria and methods of OSCE activities in this area, including improved co-operation on environmental issues. Security and stability can be threatened by economic and environmental factors. The catastrophe caused by the loss of the oil tanker Prestige a hundred miles offshore from our meeting place painfully reminds us of the need to protect the marine environment against oil pollution and its consequences for the local population. We call on participating States, the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international organizations to enhance their efforts to ensure the protection of the marine environment against such disasters by strengthening co-operation on the prevention, reduction and control of pollution by oil on the basis of full respect for international law.
8. The Human Dimension remains at the core of the activities of the Organization. The new modalities for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meetings adopted this year will further enhance the

effectiveness of the work of the Organization and its institutions. We have agreed to revise and update the OSCE Plan of Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, on which we have adopted a separate decision, is a high priority. We have also adopted a decision on election commitments and we will co-operate further in this field.

9. We recognize the significant contribution of our institutions and field operations, through their dedicated staff, in putting into practice the goals and principles of our Organization, in co-operation with host States. We task the Permanent Council to consider, as appropriate, ways of further improving the functioning and effectiveness of field operations.

10. Not all the challenges facing the OSCE are new. We remain concerned over the persistence of conflicts in various regions in the OSCE area that threaten the observance of the OSCE principles and have an impact on peace and stability. We commit ourselves to intensify our efforts to resolve these conflicts.

11. We welcome the significant progress made towards the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, and look forward to early full implementation of these commitments by all the parties concerned.

12. We commend the work done this year on improving the management of the Organization. We task the Permanent Council, through the working group on OSCE reform, to continue consideration of the remaining issues as set out in the relevant Chairmanship's report and to take appropriate decisions in 2003. We also task the Permanent Council to continue its work on OSCE legal status and privileges and immunities.

13. Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures remain indispensable to our comprehensive approach to security. We welcome the decisions of the Forum for Security Co-operation on enhancing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons; on dealing with the risks arising from stockpiles of surplus ammunition and explosives; and on strengthening the role of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in the fight against terrorism. We task the Forum to contribute to common responses to existing and emerging security challenges.

14. We welcome the first year of successful implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies. We recall that all OSCE participating States may apply for accession to the Treaty. We take note that the applications of a number of OSCE participating States have already been approved by the States Parties or are on the agenda of the Open Skies Consultative Commission.

15. We will continue to foster co-operation and dialogue with our Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. We look forward to their continued active and goal-oriented participation in the work of the OSCE on subjects of common concern.

16. The OSCE has a unique role in promoting democracy, peace and stability throughout its region. It builds confidence through dialogue and transparency, strengthens civil society, addresses the root causes of threats to stability, establishes principles and commitments and promotes their implementation. It also provides practical assistance for States to reinforce their institutions to face new challenges. This role is more important than ever in the new security environment. Today, we express our determination to strengthen the Organization and to adapt it to changing circumstances.

**Attachment to Porto Ministerial Declaration  
Interpretative Statement under paragraph 79 (chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the  
Helsinki Consultations**

By the Delegation of the Netherlands (also on behalf of Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America):

“In relation to paragraph 11 of the Ministerial Declaration and the Statements of the Ministerial Council on

Moldova and Georgia, we would like to read out paragraph 15 of the Prague Summit Declaration of NATO countries on 21 November 2001.

‘We remain committed to the CFE Treaty and reaffirm our attachment to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. The CFE regime provides a fundamental contribution to a more secure and integrated Europe. We welcome the approach of those non-CFE countries, which have stated their intention to request accession to the Adapted CFE Treaty upon its entry into force. Their accession would provide an important additional contribution to European stability and security. We welcome the significant results of Russia’s effort to reduce forces in the Treaty’s Article V area to agreed levels. We urge swift fulfilment of the outstanding Istanbul commitments on Georgia and Moldova, which will create the conditions for Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.’”