



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on NATO Secretary General George Robertson, Lord of Port Ellen**

Delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 6, 2003

Thank you Mr. Chairman and we warmly welcome you, Lord Robertson, to the Permanent Council and thank you for your excellent outline of current and possible future areas of cooperation between NATO and OSCE, a subject that has had a great deal of my personal attention, as you know.

We very much support the concrete steps that have been taken during your tenure as Secretary General to broaden and deepen consultations between the two organizations. And our ambassador to NATO, Nick Burns, and I are firmly committed to further development of practical ideas of interaction between our two organizations.

We note with special satisfaction the close, on-the-ground cooperation between NATO and OSCE in Southeast Europe. Our partnership with the countries of the region has put in place a solid foundation of democracy, economic opportunity and security cooperation in which stability within, and between, countries is being built. It is a shining example of how we each, within the context of our distinct abilities and responsibilities, have worked together to meet challenges facing our members and partners.

But, the Euro-Atlantic security environment is not static, and neither are NATO and the OSCE. Although the capabilities of our organizations differ, we seek the same end - which is to provide security and stability for people to live free, productive lives. There is room to further intensify and coordinate practical cooperation in ways that exploit organizational advantages, fill gaps and avoid duplication. Let me name a few.

First - stockpile/ammunition disposal: We hail NATO's work to help dispose of excess stockpiles of ammunition and combustible materials through PfP Trust Funds and in particular, let me laud NATO's work in Belarus, Moldova and Georgia. Notwithstanding these successes however, much remains to be done, and there is support among OSCE states to roll up our sleeves and pitch in.

Second - civil emergency planning: As Chairman of the OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) through the end of 2003, the U.S. has proposed holding a workshop in mid-December on CEP. We are very familiar with NATO's well-functioning CEP operation, but want to consider if, and where, the OSCE could add value in our organization of 55. We would welcome participation by NATO officials, including from the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Center.

Third, border security: The OSCE has special expertise in police training. This last Monday here in Vienna, we discussed a range of programs we hopefully will agree to fund in our 2004 budget as part of the OSCE's follow-through to the Balkan Border Security Conference. Inter-organizational sponsorship of this conference was excellent, and we urge NATO and OSCE to consider cooperating on border security elsewhere, if there is interest from other regions.

Fourth, non-proliferation: The U.S. has promoted a greater discussion of non-proliferation in the FSC. There is potential for work with NATO's Weapons of Mass Destruction Center, as PSCE Conflict Prevention Center Director Ambassador Zannier observed in a recent paper. We urge NATO and the OSCE to consider a regular dialogue on this topic.

Fifth, Afghanistan: OSCE participating States took a major step forward this spring by inviting Afghanistan to become a Partner for Cooperation. We strongly support work to assess what contributions the OSCE might be able to make to efforts by Afghan authorities on police and elections issues. Given NATO's presence in Kabul and its plans to expand into the provinces, NATO and OSCE should coordinate there, also.

Sixth, trafficking: OSCE participating States agreed to an Anti-Trafficking Action Plan earlier this year. In light of steps by NATO to bring its resources to bear on this modern form of slavery, our two organizations should coordinate closely on this issue.

Finally, Mr. Chairman and Lord Robertson, while we have for years had at our disposal the OSCE's Platform for Cooperative Security, an idea under consideration, in the context of developing OSCE's strategy to address threats to security, is the establishment of an ad hoc mechanism for consultation between OSCE and other organizations. If used judiciously by senior officials on significant matters - this might become another tool to increase cooperation.

Lord Robertson - the plan for greater cooperation I've outlined may be ambitious. If so, it's rooted in a belief that when the experience, resources and determination of NATO and OSCE are brought to bear on challenges, we can do far more together than we can operating separately. Security is more than words, more than weapons, more than money, more than one country or one organization - it needs partnership. With OSCE's Chairman in Office, Foreign Minister de Hoop Scheffer succeeding you, we are optimistic that he will build on your excellent work to bring our organizations even closer together. Thank you for your service to NATO and your attention to NATO-OSCE cooperation, and your personal deep commitment to the human condition and to security and peace. Thank you.