

Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE
Statement delivered by Ambassador Heiner Horsten
at the Permanent Council on 14 April 2011
also on behalf of the Ambassadors of

the United States of America, Belgium, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the European Union on the occasion of a visit to Tajikistan, April 4 – 7, 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

The above mentioned Ambassadors together with the Director of the CPC, Ambassador Salber and other members of the Secretariat paid a full week visit to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in order to focus on important aspects of trans-national threats affecting the region, with specific attention given to threats emanating from Afghanistan. In the centre of interest were questions of how the OSCE deals with these threats and what greater potential could possibly be activated. Both countries host substantive OSCE field missions and additional institutions like the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the performance of which were also in the focus of our interest.

Let me at the very outset once more thank the authorities of both countries, specifically the Ambassadors and their staff here in Vienna, for their very constructive co-operation and the warm hospitality we received on all stops of our visit.

The visit started in Dushanbe with very substantial conversations with President Rakhmon and Foreign Minister Zarifi on a full range of OSCE related issues where special attention was given to border management and security and the growing danger of trans-national threats in general. The Tajik side stressed its preparedness to step up its efforts in full cooperation with OSCE to solidify the conceptual basis for police reform, strengthen border management also through intensified training including officers from Afghanistan and help with providing the necessary office space for the BMSC to function properly.

The college organized a one day workshop on the growing dangers of trans-national threats together with high officials from Tajikistan and representatives of international organizations active in the field as well as from countries in the region including Afghanistan.

The visit to Tajikistan was rounded up by a field trip to an OSCE led mine sweeping operation on the border with Afghanistan and an extensive briefing on high standard border installations in the area of the bridge crossing over to Afghanistan at Nizhny Panj.

The key messages of our journey are if you allow me to prioritise:

OSCE with its comprehensive approach to security should give more attention to the fight against trans-national threats specifically in the countries of Central Asia that are first row in the defence for the common good of our wide OSCE area. We should therefore step up all efforts to strengthen the mandatory base for the fight against TNT, better co-ordinate and support the valuable work of our missions in the field including teaching institutions like the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.

I Thank You Chairperson,