

Marc PERRIN DE BRICHAMBAUT, secretary general, OSCE

As prepared

**Address by H.E. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the OSCE Secretary General
at the Summit of the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership
Bucharest, 5 June 2006**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Romanian Government for the kind invitation to address this distinguished gathering and for the excellent hospitality. It is an honour and privilege to be here today and discuss with you issues related to the Wider Black Sea Region in the European and global context.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership as a flexible framework for broad regional dialogue, both inter-governmental and among non-governmental organizations, and as a platform for generating new ideas, is an important and indeed welcomed development.

The notions of dialogue and partnership are very close to the OSCE. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the OSCE has been primarily a collective body providing a permanent framework for political dialogue among its now 55 participating States. Inclusiveness, equality and free exchange of views in order to address the interests of all participating States have comprised intrinsic features of such dialogue.

Building on this dialogue, the OSCE has also acted as a laboratory of ideas. It is the CSCE/OSCE who has pioneered a concept of comprehensive approach to security, linking security, economic development and human rights. Throughout its history, the OSCE has also relied on a close and mutually beneficial partnership with civil society and NGOs. The Organization has helped build capacity in civil society, while at the same time drawing on the important contribution of NGOs

and representatives of civic organizations in elaborating its conceptual framework and commitments.

As such, the Organization has been instrumental in paving the way for security, stability and co-operation across its entire area, and in particular in the Black Sea region which is an integral and critical part of the OSCE area. And here let me briefly focus on four issues, which are crucial both for the Black Sea region and the OSCE.

First, since the end of the Cold War, the Black Sea region and many of its countries have been in the process of transition. The OSCE has provided much practical help to assist the Black Sea countries, all OSCE participating States, in consolidating their democratic processes and achieving their goals. In five out of ten countries that are stakeholders of the Black Sea Forum initiative, the OSCE has its field presences of more than 100 international and 227 national staff. Through this network of flexible field presences, but also using its three Institutions and the Secretariat, the OSCE, being a community of states based on shared values and principles, stands ready to further contribute to the process of democratic reform in the Black Sea countries, as well as in implementing the body of OSCE values, principles and commitments, across all three dimensions of security. In this context, the Black Sea Forum could serve as a framework within which the countries in the region could share their experience and profit from such an exchange.

Secondly, as recognized by the Black Sea countries, new security threats such as terrorism and arms proliferation, organized crime and illegal trafficking, environmental degradation and other, require co-operative response. The OSCE, which has acquired considerable expertise and capacity in combating terrorism, trafficking in human beings and SALW proliferation, as well as in policing assistance, will continue to work closely with the countries in the region in addressing these threats.

Thirdly, the Black Sea is a region where several unresolved conflicts continue to threaten regional security and stability. The OSCE has been actively involved in facilitating political settlement of the Transdniestrian, Georgian-Ossetian, and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts. Their final settlement remains a priority for the OSCE and its 2006 Belgian Chairmanship.

Last but not least, the Black Sea region has, since ancient times, been a place where people of different traditions, cultures and religions lived together and intermingled. The Black Sea basin has been historically known for efforts to build bridges and establish rapprochement among

neighbouring nations. It is therefore only natural that Turkey, a Black Sea country, has co-sponsored the recent Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

The Alliance of Civilizations is about better understanding among people and civilizations. Promoting dialogue among cultures and religions, with full respect for tolerance and non-discrimination, is high on the OSCE agenda. It is also our belief that strengthening of democratic institutions and respect for human rights are central to promoting such dialogue. Democracy and human rights is the best antidote against intolerance, extremism and terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Stability, prosperity and democratic development of the Black Sea region and all countries in the region are in the interest of the OSCE as it is in your interest. Inclusive dialogue and successful regional co-operation enhance good-neighbourly relations, promote confidence building and facilitate regional development. Today's launching of the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership is the evidence of collective determination of the countries in the region to mobilize their potentials and efforts to promote dialogue and partnership and enhance regional security and stability.

The OSCE stands ready to help you to make the most of it, and we wish you success.