

**ADDRESS BY H.E. MR. MESUT YILMAZ,
STATE MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY,
AT THE MEETING OF THE CONVENTION
HELD BETWEEN 11-12 JULY 2002**

“EXTERNAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION”

MR. PRESIDENT,

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION,

ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL TASKS OF THIS CONVENTION IS TO DEFINE AND DEVELOP THE EXTERNAL CAPABILITIES OF THE UNION.

I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT THE ABILITY OF THE UNION TO PROJECT ITS VALUES BEYOND ITS BORDERS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY, ESPECIALLY THE CHALLENGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY NEW THREATS SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THE ALARMING FAULT LINES CREATED BETWEEN NATIONS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION, IS HIGHLY LIMITED. THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNION AROUND THE WORLD IS MEASURED MAINLY BY ITS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSETS. CERTAINLY, THE UNION HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN ALLEVIATING THE PLIGHT OF MANY NATIONS BUT THIS IS ONLY A DAMAGE CONTROL OPERATION. WE NEED TO STOP THE POLITICAL CRISIS, PREVENT HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS AND MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE REGIONS ADJACENT TO THE UNION. FOR THAT WE NEED A POSITIVE AND FUTURE-ORIENTED AGENDA.

THE UNION CANNOT PROSPER OR ENSURE ITS SECURITY BY PROTECTING ITS BORDERS. WE HAVE TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF NEW DIVISIONS, INSTABILITY, ALIENATION AND THREAT. THIS REQUIRES A MORE GLOBAL AND ACTIVE POLICY ON THE PART OF THE UNION.

THIS, IN TURN, CALLS FOR AN EFFECTIVE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY. IN ORDER TO BE CREDIBLE, THIS POLICY MUST HAVE LEGITIMACY AND BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT WITHIN THE UNION. THIS REQUIRES A MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER STATES PARLIAMENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES. WE ALSO NEED A RANGE OF TOOLS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE CHANGES IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE UNION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORA, NECESSARY ADAPTATIONS TO ALLOW FOR A COHERENT UNION VOICE AND ELABORATION OF A STRATEGIC VISION THAT WILL COMBINE INTERNAL COMMUNITY POLICIES WITH INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

A COMMON EUROPEAN FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY. IN THIS CONTEXT THE EUROPEAN POLICIES MUST NOT EVOLVE TO DUPLICATE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS BUT MUST BE COMPLEMENTARY TO SUCH ASSETS. THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION MUST BE MAINTAINED. THE UNION MUST ALSO DEVELOP ITS PARTICULAR POLICIES IN THE LIGHT OF ITS OWN EXPERIENCE, HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR REGIONS THAT ARE FEELING INCREASINGLY ALIENATED FROM THE WEST. WITH ITS SPECIFIC TRADITION OF SOCIAL AWARENESS AND STRONG HISTORICAL TIES TO DIFFERENT CULTURES, THE UNION CAN OFFER HOPE AND INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE BEYOND THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS WILL NO DOUBT ENHANCE THE FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY OF THE UNION. IN THIS RESPECT, TURKEY WILL PROVIDE ASSETS THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL REACH AND INFLUENCE OF THE UNION. WE CAN REINFORCE THE SECURITY AND STABILITY STRUCTURES OF THE UNION AND CONTRIBUTE TO A WIDER DISSEMINATION OF EUROPEAN VALUES.

THANK YOU.