



























in Russia in the near future. The same applies to other CSTO members. Therefore, the best scenario would be to achieve a common understanding on the cohabitation of different value systems in the OSCE region and their gradual convergence through more effective co-operation and co-ordination in the fight against our common enemy, i.e. the new security threats.

The Corfu Process and the upcoming Summit represent a historic opportunity to improve East-West relations and gradually build up a new security order based on trust, co-operation, respect for legitimate security interests, and compliance with universally accepted values. In order to alleviate traditional prejudices and harmonize the interests of individual states, it is vital to grasp the opportunity to agree on a common understanding and definition of security threats as well as on measures to eliminate them and thus to gradually overcome the deep misperceptions of values. From the point of view of the EU, Russian worries sometimes appear absurd, but they are in all likelihood still real for Russia, although it is questionable how much of this is just tactics and political marketing. The Corfu Process, if it is turned into real negotiations, may become an important instrument for influencing Russian thinking in the Euro-Atlantic direction.

Finally, even if both sides come to better comprehend the thinking and needs of the other party, Russia and its allies nonetheless have to understand that no strategic partnership is possible if the values of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law are not fully shared and respected. Being aware that all the other alternatives are worse, it is our duty to overcome the contradictions and get on with real negotiations, even if they may take many years to conclude.