

Its agenda is the right one, ranging from human rights to disarmament and economic co-operation. Its members are not only 33 countries in Europe itself, but also those two European powers who, geographically speaking, lie on a different continent but form, in the political and cultural sense, an integral part of the community of European nations, our host nation today, Canada, and the United States of America. Their continued participation in the affairs of Europe, also in the field of defence and security, is, we believe, crucial for the peace and well-being of our continent.

Each of the three institutions I mentioned -- the European Community, The Atlantic Alliance, and the CSCE -- has its own role to play in the new Europe.

And there is no need, as far as we can see, to look at them as a kind of alternative and to presume that a strengthened CSCE can or should replace, for instance, the Atlantic Alliance, or that the process of European integration in the framework of the European Community stands in the way of a greater economic co-operation between all European countries.

A CSCE summit later this year on the occasion of the signing of the CFE Treaty will lead, I hope, to a strengthening of the CSCE part of the new European architecture. And, in the view of my country, such a summit will not only provide a forum for a stock-taking and a general debate on the fundamental changes that have taken place in Europe in the recent years; but that summit will also be the appropriate moment to take decisions on the updating of the Helsinki process in accordance with the new circumstances.

These decisions could take the form of new CSCE commitments which would consolidate the positive developments in the European countries concerning, inter alia, human rights and free elections, and could harvest the results of CSCE meetings such as the ones later this year in Bonn and Copenhagen.

Furthermore, that summit will, in the opinion of my country, have to decide on new arms control objectives. The Netherlands is in favour, after the conclusion of a CFE agreement, to have an immediate start of a new cycle of negotiations to enhance stability and security in Europe even more.

Moreover, the summit could decide on strengthening the structure of the CSCE process by setting up a structure for consultations between the CSCE countries at the level of Foreign Ministers and their officials. And this structure should, in our opinion, be a flexible one, not based on a formal treaty and without a cumbersome bureaucracy.

Most important, however, at that summit the Ministers of Foreign Affairs could be given the mandate to elaborate proposals