

The message from Heidi Meinzolt,
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Dear Pekka,

when the Helsinki process started to establish OSCE, we both welcomed this as substantial progress - at that time representatives of the European Greens. We saw it as a window of opportunity to overcome block confrontation which brought so much suffering to Europe. We advocated for a pan-European spirit which Alex Langer called the „necessity to jump over walls and build bridges“.

OSCE developed since mechanisms and tools to strengthen diplomacy and mediation on all levels for sustainable agreements.

Many governments – including mine, Germany, even under a green government – haven't taken OSCE as a serious platform – in peace and in conflict situations. They focussed on „Realpolitik“ in a western alliance and as integrated part of the military alliance NATO.

Diplomacy and negotiations with full respect of a common understanding of diverging interests, remain the key for any conflict solution – in war times even more urgent than in peace (or frozen conflicts).

The fear in the neighboring countries of Russia is certainly justified, especially regarding the terrible aggressions and war crimes now. But fear is the worst adviser if it comes to diplomacy. I am deeply convinced that talks should never stop.

The Finish (and Swedish) NATO membership could be considered as an obstacle for East-West talks. It could also destroy the ideas of a possible neutral corridor between spheres of interest. As a consequence, it will not protect your country, but possibly escalate the tensions and threats affecting the whole of Europe.

I therefore strongly advocate for maintaining your state neutrality, to strengthen OSCE in the best sens of the Helsinki agreement and the cooperation of so many committed Helsinki associations and civil society groups – for which I am also speaking now.

Heidi

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