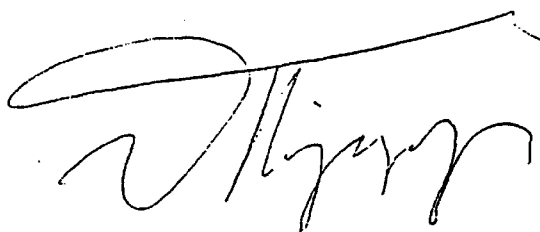


In this same context of a comprehensive strategy that will ensure that NATO, as the central pillar of European security, can meet challenges in a Europe where no external power poses a threat, I am convinced that it will be of great importance to create, within the Alliance, a conventional mechanism that ensures the peaceful settlement of disputes between member states of our enlarged Alliance.

More specifically, such a mechanism should move along the lines of the provisions (art. 10) of the Western European Union Treaty for the settlement of international disputes.

Once the principle of this idea is agreed upon, we should proceed by elaborating an agreement which will take the form of an instrument additional to the North Atlantic Treaty and to the enlargement agreements.

Your thoughts on this issue of a conventional mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes will be most welcomed.

Yours sincerely


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