

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ADDRESS BY  
THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MIGUEL ANGEL MORATINOS CUYABÉ  
645TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
11 JANUARY 2007**

M. le président,

Le Canada se joint aux orateurs précédents pour accueillir chaleureusement son excellence M. le Ministre Miguel Angel Moratinos à l'occasion de sa première allocution au Conseil permanent en tant que président en exercice de l'OSCE. C'est avec grand plaisir que nous envisageons notre collaboration étroite avec la présidence espagnole tout au long de 2007. Le Canada saisit aussi cette occasion pour remercier la Belgique pour son travail assidu et pour ses succès à la tête de l'Organisation en 2006.

Canada appreciates the priorities of the Spanish Chairmanship and we believe that they will further the valuable work already done by the OSCE.

Our collective commitments highlight that security in the OSCE region can only be realized through the development and deepening of democratic governance. This requires pluralistic societies that respect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, allow peaceful dissent and work to combat all forms of intolerance and discrimination.

Mr. Chairman, these values are at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security and they also form the cornerstone of our efforts to counter threats to security and stability, such as terrorism, transnational organized crime and trafficking in drugs and people. Canada underlines the significance of the OSCE activities in combating these scourges, and welcomes the specific attention placed by Spain on counter-terrorism, in particular as it relates to the OSCE's role as a platform for cooperation and in sharing experiences and expertise.

Canada has long been a proponent of a cross-dimensional approach to security and we intend to take part actively in the work of the three Committees which are being established as a result of the Brussels Ministerial Council. We hope that this new structure will increase coherence and assist in streamlining the working practices of the organization and in avoiding the proliferation of additional working groups. We would also welcome early discussions in Committee of selected substantive outputs which would interest and engage ministers, well in advance of the Ministerial Meeting.

As previous FSC Chair, Canada believes that the politico-military dimension continues to offer great opportunities for participating States to cooperate towards shared security, beyond political considerations, in particular as it relates to areas such as implementation of the OSCE documents on small arms and light weapons and on stockpiles of conventional ammunition as well as non-proliferation.

In taking on these challenges, it is imperative that we not work alone. The OSCE must continue to cultivate deeper relations with both governmental and non-governmental bodies. We welcome the emphasis already placed by Spain on engaging with civil society.

One area of inter-organizational cooperation at which the OSCE has excelled through niche specific functions is the Environmental Security initiative. Canada continues to support this program through extra-budgetary resources. We are supportive of the Chair's second-dimension focus on issues related to the environment.

Mr. Chairman, we see the Chair's emphasis on assisting the development of multi-ethnic and tolerant societies as key to the OSCE's contribution to a stable and democratic Kosovo.

Canada continues to attach priority to the OSCE's work in contributing to the resolution of the conflicts in Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia in a manner that will reflect the principles of territorial integrity, peaceful coexistence and democracy.

Canada is also supportive of continued OSCE engagement in Central Asia, notably in the areas of police reform and border management. This is a good example of the OSCE providing concrete assistance in response to States' requests to improve security sector governance.

M. le président, le Ministre MacKay se réjouit à la perspective d'évoquer ces sujets avec le Ministre Moratinos lors de son prochain passage à Ottawa. En conclusion, j'aimerais souhaiter au Ministre Moratinos ainsi qu'à toute son équipe, beaucoup de succès dans l'atteinte de leurs objectifs pour la présidence espagnole de 2007.

Je vous remercie M. le président.