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ENGLISH only

**Statement**  
**in response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of**  
**Spain, H. E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko  
at the 790<sup>th</sup> (Special) meeting of the Permanent Council,  
19 January 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM and welcome H.E. Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos to the Permanent Council meeting.

Mr. Minister,

The GUAM Member States would like to thank Your Excellency for the comprehensive outline of priorities of the Spanish EU Presidency, the first following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on December 1st. We hope that effective realization of the Presidency's program will contribute to promotion of security, stability and prosperity in Europe.

The GUAM countries would like to reaffirm their political support to the Eastern Partnership as well as their readiness to use integration opportunities of this EU's initiative in order to give a new impulse to cooperation with the European Union. The GUAM countries are ready to enhance the work to make the Eastern Partnership a really efficient mechanism capable of assisting the partner countries in reaching their own respective goals as regards the European integration.

We welcome the completion of ratification process of the Treaty of Lisbon, which will provide the European Union with institutional framework necessary to meet future challenges.

Mr. Minister,

The protracted conflicts on the territories of some of GUAM States still remain among the most serious and urgent ones. We are convinced, and this was clear from your Statement, that EU Spanish Presidency would share our belief that the settlement of the conflicts existing in the Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the Transdniestrian region of Moldova shall be carried out on the basis of the norms and principles of the international law, particularly those pertaining to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of international borders. Persistence of these conflicts endangers peace and security and represents a major obstacle for European integration and economic development of the concerned GUAM countries. Their resolution will bring immediate benefits not only to the affected countries, but will substantially contribute to stability and regional security.

Being a strong proponent of the energy dialogue, the GUAM is ready to be a reliable partner in strengthening energy security through the diversification and development of alternative and renewable sources.

Concluding, Mr. Minister, we wish you every success in your activities and look forward to continue a constructive and meaningful dialogue with the EU in the areas of common interest.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman