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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JULI MINOVES-TRIQUELL,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CULTURE AND  
CO-OPERATION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA, AT THE  
FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Brussels, 4 and 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,  
Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like first of all to warmly welcome Montenegro which is taking part today for the first time in a Ministerial Council as an OSCE participating State. It is the first country to have joined our large family since Andorra ten years ago.

This Ministerial Council demonstrates once again shows the need to fight together against transnational and multidimensional threats, not least as it is not easy for a State or international organization to confront these challenges on its own.

For this reason, the OSCE should focus with determination on strengthening co-operation and interaction with all international and regional organizations in accordance with the provisions of the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul.

All international organizations are called upon to develop their complementarity. The OSCE can contribute a number of assets, particularly with regard to the defence of human rights and the field of security.

We need to define priorities and structure the implementation of our projects while at the same time promoting the wider concept of security, which is founded on a balance between the three OSCE dimensions — politico-military, economic and environmental and human.

We must show our determination to combat organized crime, which is intimately linked with corruption, illicit trafficking in drugs and arms and trafficking in human beings.

We must strengthen the rule of law in our region by promoting justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

The international community is redoubling its efforts to combat terrorism. Andorra has already ratified most of the United Nations conventions relating to terrorism and is likely to finish doing so in 2007.

The decisions adopted during this Council will enable us to significantly improve the mechanisms for preventing and combating terrorism. It is important to control access to arms and arsenals so as to limit the harmful activities of terrorists. Andorra, which has been at peace and without an army since 1278, is committed to disarmament. We participate actively in the implementation of projects within the OSCE, particularly in Central Asia through the project on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition stockpiles in Tajikistan.

Andorra supports the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking In Human Beings, particularly trafficking in women and children. Co-operation between emigration and immigration States is essential but it is not enough on its own. We must improve our knowledge of the reasons behind this traffic so as to be able to combat it more effectively.

Promotion of human rights throughout the world is not without its dangers. We must safeguard political freedom and freedom of the press in our region. People continue to pay with their lives for freedom of opinion and expression. Freedom of expression, with the rights and obligations that it entails, is a pillar of democratic societies that we must support without fail.

We need to learn to go beyond tolerance and cultivate mutual respect. A society governed by reason and morality which recognizes the dignity of man, a society that encourages education, particularly in the field of human rights, will become a society at peace. Education has a primordial role to play in the promotion of inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and the teaching of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Humanity must be able to organize itself as a global, pluralistic and multicultural society that respects human rights and democracy. The OSCE can help in achieving this objective. In this regard, Andorra supports the statement made by Finland this morning on behalf of the European Union.

We appreciate the work of the OSCE in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and diversity and therefore support the decision to organize a follow-up conference to the meeting in Córdoba on this subject, possibly next year in Bucharest.

In this context, we note the work carried out by the Alliance of Civilizations and the worthy attention paid to young people in the fight against intolerance and discrimination. We congratulate the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for its work in the field of democracy and human rights and plan to participate in the ODIHR programmes by making a voluntary contribution in 2007.

Andorra supports all initiatives aimed at promoting conflict resolution. We participate actively in the programme for the economic rehabilitation of the Georgian/South Ossetian conflict zone. The project will help to build confidence between the parties involved.

Our Organization should follow up the results of the Economic Forum on transport and make preparations for the next Forum on environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area, with special focus on land degradation, soil contamination and water management.

We welcome the work on strengthening the OSCE, which was completed during the year. The reform should be seen as an ongoing process of flexible adaptation to improve our instruments and in doing so to strengthen the Organization's ability to react and adapt to new challenges.

This approach is reflected in the decision on the rules of procedure, which takes account of the new realities and practices introduced since 1973. We also appreciate the proposal to improve the OSCE consultation process through the creation of a committee structure, which will help to systemize the Organization's priorities and objectives and ensure proper treatment of transdimensional issues.

Andorra's commitment to the OSCE has been seen on numerous occasions. In 2004, Andorra assumed the chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation. In 2007 it will host the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly economic conference on strengthening stability and co-operation through international trade.

Finally, I should like to congratulate the Belgian Chairmanship for its excellent organization of this Ministerial Council in Brussels and for the work that it has carried out during the year. I should also like to express my best wishes for success to the future Spanish Chairmanship and our dear friend and colleague, Miguel Ángel Moratinos. Andorra assures him of its complete and most sincere collaboration so that we can continue to work to guarantee security, peace, stability and the values of our continent.

Thank you.