



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**Statement by Ambassador Naci Saribaş
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE
(790th meeting of the Permanent Council, 19 January 2010)**

We welcome H.E. Moratinos and thank him for his presentation covering a number of issues of common interest to both the OSCE and the EU.

We should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Minister on Spain's assumption of the presidency for the fourth time at a decisive period for the European Union as it reinforces and transforms itself with the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty. We wish you every success during the challenging period ahead.

A participating State of the OSCE as well as a country conducting accession negotiations with the EU, Turkey has a stake in the well-being and success of both Organizations. Our policies are shaped by our perception of the security environment in our geography covered by both Organizations and the added value they bring in projecting stability.

In this regard, we share Mr. Minister's view that our dialogue in the OSCE on the future of European security is an opportunity to advance our common interests as well as consolidate the stability and security of our continent.

The EU with the adaption of the Lisbon Treaty is expected to acquire a stronger political and security profile. One of the priorities of the Spanish Presidency is to reinforce the presence and influence of the EU in the new world order. Therefore it has become increasingly more important for the two Organizations to foster an ongoing dialogue in order to dovetail their policies on security issues of common concern, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of work and ensuring the rational use of limited resources in a mutually re-enforcing way. In face of the multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, trans-national threats and challenges to our collective security the OSCE and the EU stand as natural partners in devising joint responses and attain greater strategic commonality.

In the last few years challenges to our common security have evolved and become even more complex. Besides the necessity of strengthening democratic institutions, civil society and good governance in our geography, we have

become aware of the need for addressing divisive perceptions within our own societies as manifested in racist and xenophobic trends.

Building bridges of dialogue and mutual respect across cultural and religious divides is a common goal that both organizations are striving for in their efforts. We trust the Spanish Presidency as the Co-sponsor of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative together with Turkey, will mark a strong commitment by the EU to this initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

There is scope for further co-operation and coordination between the two Organizations towards making an active contribution to the resolution of the protracted conflicts. The importance of such a cooperation is evident as the crises in Georgia in 2008 has demonstrated. My country which has taken the leading role in regional cooperation initiatives like the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform will remain committed in bringing peace and stability in its region. Within this context, we support the European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.

In conclusion, as a negotiating candidate country, “pacta sunt servanda” should be the guiding principle in this process. We thank You and your government for your support to Turkey’s accession process. With these words and assuring you of my delegation’s close co-operation with the Spanish Delegation here in Vienna, we wish you all the success Mr. Minister.