

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
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CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR
AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN TO THE
OSCE, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 2007 ANNUAL
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 19 June 2007

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Today we are beginning the fifth edition of the Annual Security Review Conference which, since its establishment by Decision No. 3 adopted by the Porto Ministerial Council in 2002, has provided participating States every year with a specific forum for strengthening dialogue in matters of security and for examining the efforts of the OSCE and its participating States in this field.

Since then, believe it or not, a *lustrum* has gone by. I am sure that those of you who are familiar with Latin, the historic diplomatic language par excellence, will remember that *lustrum* means clean and pure and was used with reference to the purification ceremony celebrated every five years — in fact the most important celebration in ancient Rome. All who called themselves *pater familiae* were obliged to attend this ceremony and those who failed to do so lost their civic rights until the time of the next purification. This was a serious penalty, I dare say, since it meant that the person in question lost his right to plead in court.

To be sure, we are not gathered here in order to plead, as the meaning of this Roman ceremony might suggest, but to examine the state of affairs as regards the OSCE's work in its three dimensions. Now I am sure that none of us are unaware of the special circumstances in which this Annual Security Review Conference is being launched. This being so, the appeal I want to make today to all participants as our real work begins consists in an invitation to promote dialogue among participating States and to strengthen exchange of information and co-operation among the international as well as regional organizations and institutions represented here. This is an appeal for an exchange of opinion — lively, direct, sincere, perhaps sometimes on painful subjects, but the whole process should be endowed with a purifying spirit as is suggested to us by the word *lustrum* which has come down to us from ancient Rome.

As we all know, just a few days ago the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) ended without overcoming the differences existing between participating States on various

questions related to arms control in the area of application of the CFE Treaty. In this connection I should like to recall that a press release issued in Madrid last Friday contained statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Miguel Angel Moratinos, emphasizing that for the Spanish Chairmanship the politico-military dimension of the OSCE continues to be a crucial area for dialogue and that its importance cannot be questioned. Spain firmly believes that the present politico-military instruments operating under the aegis of the OSCE, among them the CFE Treaty, have made a satisfactory contribution and should continue to help reinforce the climate of security and mutual trust which we enjoy at present in Europe, North America and Central Asia.

For Spain, in its capacity as Chairman of the OSCE, there is one matter of particularly great interest which has been mentioned by the Spanish delegation on previous occasions and in different discussion forums in Vienna, a matter which I should like to stress in inaugurating our present Conference: this has to do with the fact that certain questions related to the politico-military aspects of security have remained, precisely since the year in which the first Review Conference was held, a source of disagreement, not only in the context of the work done by the Joint Consultative Group of the CFE Treaty but also at the OSCE's Ministerial Council meetings, disagreement which has made it impossible to adopt ministerial statements concerning the programme of the Organization, without which the OSCE could well find that its conflict prevention capacity is seriously diminished.

Spain does not want to see this situation repeated in Madrid. What we need and indeed must have is not theoretical but real, truly effective political will on the part of us all, political will which will enable us to consolidate the global security concept we are trying to create in the OSCE in the triple perspective offered to us by the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions.

Not every vision is bleak in this panorama. The Spanish Chairmanship recognizes and welcomes with satisfaction the advances achieved in the last few years in applying political commitments adopted by the OSCE in important areas of security, in particular areas associated with border management, prevention of terrorism and the fight against terrorism, conflict prevention and police activities. And this has been possible precisely thanks to common efforts and dialogue in close co-operation with other international and regional organizations and institutions which were invited to participate in this Conference.

Let us then make the best of the opportunity offered us in this area with a lively debate, avoiding formal declarations, and promoting a dynamic exchange of information; let us make our interventions brief and specific in order to bring about a lively and productive dialogue, making use of the experience and dedication of the moderators and rapporteurs who have offered their collaboration, as well as the inspiration of the speakers who have done their best to stimulate dialogue at each of the working sessions foreseen in the programme.

In conclusion, esteemed colleagues, we should not forget that this Annual Security Review Conference should for practical purposes be an event designed to improve dialogue between all participating States of the OSCE in conditions of true equality designed to smooth over differences. In relation to this point, as I have said

before, we are not overlooking the legitimate discrepancies which still persist in important questions of security related to arms control in the geographic space of the OSCE.

For all these reasons I should like to take the opportunity offered by this Conference to make an appeal to all participating States; we should resolve to settle all questions of a controversial nature together, seeking common ground on the basis of all the negotiation formats available to us which offer a maximum of efficiency. We must seek what unites us rather than dwelling on what separates us and gives rise to differences. If we do this, the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in November should be a happy occasion on which we can congratulate each other for helping to maintain an appropriate balance in the work carried out by the OSCE in its three dimensions, just as our ministers endeavoured to do in Porto when they instituted this form of dialogue which is five years old today.

Many thanks to all of you.