



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA
UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS
AT THE 688th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 November 2007

Mr. Chairmen,

On behalf of the delegation of Serbia I have the pleasure to inform the distinguished Permanent Council that the Republic of Serbia completed its Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on November 12.

According to the assessments of high officials, as well as the members of the Council of Europe, Serbia's Chairmanship, which was conducted under the slogan "One Europe – our Europe", was a very successful one. Serbia was commended for being an impartial, responsible and strong leader of the Committee of Ministers.

In summarizing Serbia's six-month chairmanship, at a special meeting of the Ministers' deputies, Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremić pointed out that the major successes of the Serbian Chairmanship were the beginning of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the EU and the CoE, the declaration of October 10 as "Europe's Day Against the Death Penalty", work on the coordination and implementation of European conventions, including those on human rights, and the promotion of the institution efficiency, such as the European Court of Human Rights.

In that regard, I would like to add that Serbia has proved once more the strong commitment to fundamental democratic values, especially those promoted by the Council of Europe – human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law and a pluralistic democracy. Allow me to underline that the successful Chairmanship wouldn't have been possible without the broad consensus and cooperation of the

Serbian Government, Serbian NGO's and the representatives of the civil society in Serbia.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me inform you that the Serbian Foreign Minister handed over the duties of the Council of Europe committee of Ministers Chair to his Slovak counterpart H.E. Jan Kubiš. In that regard I would like to wish Slovakia every success for its six-month's Chairmanship.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman