



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

S t a t e m e n t

in response to the address by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Miguel Angel Moratinos, delivered by H.E. Neven Madey, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE, at the 790th (Special) Meeting of the Permanent Council, January 19, 2010

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Minister,

The year of 2010 promises to be full of events and challenges for the OSCE and its participating states. As we embark on the new phase, known as the Corfu process, it is most encouraging that you have decided, Mr. Minister, to present to us at the very beginning the program and the priorities of the Spanish Presidency.

While the Republic of Croatia gives its full support to the proclaimed priorities of the Spanish Presidency we would like to wish you every success and good luck in implementing it as your objectives address the core problems that the international community is facing in the economic and financial sphere and in the functioning of the European Union following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The role of the European Union in the promotion of the Euroatlantic and Euroasian security is of paramount importance. It proved that role also through its constructive engagement in the Corfu process within the OSCE. It is most welcome to hear that the Spanish Presidency intends to explore all avenues with a view to strengthening the role of our Organization, and to reach genuine security and cooperation, increased trust and confidence among the participating states. This noble goal requires active and constructive cooperation by all and my country certainly will act in that manner, also in harmony with the EU.

Mr. Minister,

Among the priorities of your presidency one objective is of particular importance – the enlargement process of the European Union. We are grateful for the continuous support of the Kingdom of Spain in regard to our own accession negotiations now in its concluding final phase. This support is indispensable for the finalization of these negotiations, which you would like to see concluded during the term of the Spanish Presidency but also as the example and encouragement to other countries in the Western Balkans to continue with the implementation of important reforms and adoption of the *acquis communautaire*. Your plans to promote the prospects of other countries to join the EU have our full support. Recently we have demonstrated it by announcing that Croatia will share with them the entire *acquis communautaire* translated into Croatian language what can greatly facilitate their preparations.

Ever since the Prime Minister Zapatero a year ago stated that Spain will give a decisive push forward to Croatia (*espaldarazo*) we have received your valuable technical assistance for which we are grateful. If it will require to give a stronger push please don't hesitate. On our part the Presidency will have a partner devoted to effective and thorough implementation of all reforms, even the most demanding ones as Croatia is determined to achieve the goal of completing the technical part of the accession negotiations in 2010.

We wish you every success during the Spanish Presidency, and also to our colleague, H.E. Marta Betanzos Roig and her able team.

Thank you.