

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT ON THE PRESENTATION BY
SECRETARY GENERAL MARC PERRIN DE BRICHAMBAUT
ON THE 2009 PROGRAMME OUTLINE
714TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
29 MAY 2008**

Canada joins others in thanking the Secretary General for the 2009 Programme Outline. We would also like to express our appreciation to all the fund managers and their teams, who have worked hard to produce this document.

We note the significant changes in both format and content in this year's Programme Outline and welcome efforts to encourage a political discussion on prioritising the OSCE's activities.

A restrictive budget climate such as the one in the OSCE requires focussed programming that utilises the strengths of our organisation.

Our delegation has long called for this discussion and has clearly highlighted areas in which we believe the OSCE works most effectively. We anticipate continuing our contribution to this debate in the coming weeks.

Mr. Chairman, it is our belief that the overview of thematic activities provides a useful examination of the cross-cutting work of the OSCE and further highlights the need for the entire organisation to coordinate more closely.

We were pleased to read in the economic and environmental dimension thematic activities subsection a clear statement of winding down some activities in favour of others for which participating States have expressed preference.

Canada believes that this is useful step forward and we look forward to its emulation from other programmes.

Canada would like to reiterate our strong support for the Institutions and Field Missions. On the latter, it is our hope that all participating States will provide support for continued robust programming and flexible, comprehensive mandates.

Our delegation would also stress the importance of the work of the OSCE institutions and the need to sustain adequate funding to these structures, particularly to ODIHR and its election programming.

Mr. Chairman, we would like further to underscore our continued strong support to the programmes that counter trafficking in human beings and those that advance gender equality.

In the former, we look to the Office of the Special Representative /Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and to ODIHR to coordinate and lead efforts in battling this crime.

In the latter, we note that the OSCE needs to do better in advancing gender equality in its hiring and programming and are encouraged this will be a focus in 2009.

Mr. Chairman, it is well known that Canada has been a supporter of the OSCE's involvement with Afghanistan. However, we would point out that this initiative remains in its nascent stages and we would advise caution on expanding proposed activities and budget requests in this area until there is more programmatic certainty.

We look forward to working with the Secretary General, the Secretariat and other delegations to ensure we develop an effective and appropriate Afghanistan programme as quickly as possible.

Canada notes that continued effort is being made to implement results based management into the OSCE budget process, we are supportive that this year's format includes strategic plans in addition to objectives and outcomes.

We note that some work is still needed to ensure the strategic plans go beyond a simple description of programming or of political conditions, and that performance indicators are still forthcoming, but we believe the OSCE is moving in the right direction in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, we would again like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation and his efforts in releasing this document. We look forward to making more detailed comments during discussions in the coming weeks.