

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



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

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
IN RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALEXANDER GRUSHKO
ON THE JOINT 38TH MEETING OF THE FSC/PC
18 FEBRUARY 2009**

Madame Chair,

On behalf of the Delegation of Canada, I would like to welcome out distinguished guest from the Russian Federation, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Grushko, and to thank him for his comprehensive presentation on his President's proposals, because there is a clear need for Russia to contribute positively to transatlantic security.

Canada is a long-standing and constructive partner with Russia in existing Euro-Atlantic security structures. We expect that Russia's security proposals will continue to embrace the concept of a shared zone of European security that extends from "Vancouver to Vladivostok".

We are ready to engage substantially on your proposals and any other proposals aimed at enhancing trans-Atlantic security.

We are looking for concrete substance, including how your proposal treats existing security frameworks.

In our view, existing security institutions – primarily NATO and the OSCE – are sound and efficient and are available for engaging Russia. Our aim is to make what we have work better, not replace it or alter it beyond recognition. We must also not lose sight of the need to implement our current commitments under existing structures, including the OSCE.

We must maintain and enhance the comprehensive concept of security that includes the human and economic dimensions, as well as the politico-military aspects. Our commitment to existing structures would not be negotiable, including our commitments to existing human rights and democracy building institutions.

Any discussions on improving Euro-Atlantic security arrangements should be based on the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

We understand from comments made by Russian leaders and officials that the OSCE will be the forum for discussion of these proposals. Your presentation today, Mr. Grushko raised some questions about the centrality of the OSCE in these discussions. The advantage of the OSCE is that brings together countries whose long-standing security interests would be directly engaged. The OSCE also ensures that we take a cross-dimensional approach to security.

Madame Chair, with your permission, my delegation would like to ask our distinguished guest two questions:

Does your proposal integrate all three dimensions of the OSCE?

How would the CFE be integrated in your proposed Security Treaty?

Thank you. Merci. “Spasibo”.