



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO H.E. MIGUEL ANGEL MORATINOS
CUYABÉ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SPAIN**

As delivered by Ambassador Mette Kongshem
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 11, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of Norway, to warmly welcome our new Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyabé, to the Permanent Council. We thank him for his inspiring address outlining the priorities of the Spanish Chairmanship in 2007.

Norway is a strong supporter of the OSCE. This Organization is a unique instrument for providing security and stability to our peoples. Nevertheless, it is up to every participating State to make full use of the mechanisms and human resources that the OSCE offers. Moreover, we need a collective will to move forward. We need to work hand in hand, as the Minister stated this morning. Norway will do its part, and we look forward to work actively with the Spanish Chairmanship.

Let me also use this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the outgoing Belgian Chairmanship for their dedicated work, determination and leadership through 2006. The results of the Brussels Ministerial Council will be guiding and invigorating our work in many respects, both in terms of structure as well as on substantive issues.

Mr. Chairman,

If we want to make an impact, this Organization cannot and should not take on all the issues and challenges on the international agenda. Bringing more coherence to ongoing activities rather than expanding our agenda is in our view a wise course to take. We must structure our work so that whatever task we engage in is directly related to our common purpose.

It is therefore important to administer the annual agenda of the OSCE in such a way that the common purpose of our work is clear. We must strengthen and streamline our decision-making process. In our opinion the new structures we adopted for our work at the Brussels Ministerial will make it easier to set priorities, and strengthen transparency and dialogue.

Norway therefore welcomes that the Spanish Chairmanship, in setting out its priorities for 2007 is focusing on what should be the main strengths of this Organization; its role as a forum for constructive dialogue and discussion and respect for individual differences.

Mr. Chairman,

Democratization is a motor of change, but the path to a stable democracy is not an easy one. Each of us has to proceed on that path according to our history, traditions and political culture. No single approach has universal validity, but there are core values which we, the participating States, have committed ourselves to work towards by nurturing a democratic culture. We therefore welcome the determination of the Spanish Chairmanship towards consolidating and deepening the democratic principles and values that constitute the bedrock of this Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway has continuously underscored the importance of dealing with all issues in the OSCE in a cross-dimensional perspective. That is also why we champion the integration of the gender perspective into the security dialogue, not the least through our activities on conflict prevention and conflict management in the politico-military dimension in the OSCE. As we step up our efforts to implement the 2004 Gender Action Plan and UNSCR 1325 we see the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as a unique and groundbreaking document which continues to be of the highest relevance, also in our efforts to take the gender issue forward. Norway will therefore propose that we consider an additional protocol to the Code which will integrate the security perspectives of UNSCR 1325, connected to women, peace and stability.

In a similar cross-dimensional vein, Norway will continue to support the projects related to the OSCE documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. The extra-budgetary projects on destruction of the old rocket fuel melange are a classic example of how the dimensions can merge in a practical manner.

Mr Chairman,

The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability adopted at Maastricht reflects the profound changes in the types of security threats confronting us in the 21st century. We therefore salute the Spanish initiative to use the threats and challenges identified in the Maastricht Strategy as a basis for choosing priorities within the three dimensions. This strategy identifies many of the new threats and challenges we are facing and have to deal with, and provides strategic direction on how to respond. However, the Strategy as it stands is not an operational document which lends itself to implementation and review. We propose to put our efforts during 2007 into operationalizing the Strategy. We should activate the document, make it a living instrument. In this connection we see security sector governance as an excellent example of an area where OSCE has “added value”.

Mr. Chairman,

Frozen or protracted conflicts still remain unresolved in the OSCE area. They prevent social and economic development and represent threats to regional security. Proposals for solutions to all these conflicts are on the table. We will support the Spanish Chairmanship in its

endeavours to set in motion measures which can contribute to make these proposals operational.

In Kosovo we are entering a critical period in the process of deciding its future status. The OSCE will have a key role to play in implementing a status settlement. We see two main areas where the OSCE can give a unique contribution. Firstly, in building good governance. The OSCE should continue its work to create stronger and more competent institutions able to deliver services to the entire population. And secondly, to monitor and improve respect for human rights and in particular in relations between ethnic communities in Kosovo.

We also support the Spanish Chairmanship's special attention to combating terrorism. This scourge must be fought at all at all levels, and not only with military means. The OSCE is well placed to contribute and indeed does. Several conferences on this issue are planned for 2007. They should provide concrete and operational results. But we must not let the conferences take away the focus we must continue to have on implementing decisions already taken in this area in previous years.

Mr. Chairman,

There will be no lasting peace and stability without economic development and tackling environmental challenges. As environmental and resource management policies comprise key components of Norwegian foreign and security policy, we commend the initiative by the Spanish Chairmanship to choose environmental aspects of security as a principal theme for 2007.

Mr. Chairman,

All our efforts will require that we are ready to provide the OSCE with the necessary resources to carry out the decisions taken. Or, we should agree on the necessary financing before those decisions are made.

In concluding Mr. Chairman, allow me again to congratulate Foreign Minister Moratinos on assuming this important function and wish him success.

Thank you.