

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  
RESPONSE TO ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR WERNER WNENDT  
HEAD OF OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO  
678<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
26 JULY, 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

Canada warmly welcomes Ambassador Wnendt back to the Permanent Council and thanks him both for his comprehensive report and informative presentation today.

We recognize that the conditions under which the OSCE Mission in Kosovo works are constrained to some extent by unfolding political developments. However, we believe that the ongoing diplomatic process will result in a role of continued importance for the OSCE Mission.

We have taken careful note of the timetable regarding the expiration of the Kosovo Assembly in December and the Municipal Assemblies in November of this year. We are interested in hearing Ambassador Wnendt's views on the options facing the OSCE as a result of these events.

We also note that this will take place around the time of the Ministerial Council in Madrid and highlight the possibility of Ministerial discussions on this issue.

Canada highly values the work of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and its contributions to stability in this region through its programming in democratization, elections, media affairs, the promotion of human rights, rule of law development and police education.

Here we would underline the importance of continued work on Standards implementation, which, as Ambassador Wnendt points out in his report, strengthens institutions and improves the delivery of public services to the people of Kosovo.

It is also our view that significant credit for the success of the Mission is its presence in the municipalities, which allows for direct communication between the local population and the international community.

We believe that the Mission's comprehensive programming and local activities will build capacity and promote pluralism among the local communities and trust in the international community.

Mr. Chairman, this may be Ambassador Wnendt's last appearance as Head of Mission to OMIK. Canada is pleased with the leadership he has shown, which has been pivotal to the effectiveness of the OSCE in Kosovo. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.