

# Report of the Chairmanship- in-Office

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## Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office



Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos speaks at a news conference at the end of the Madrid Ministerial Council on 30 November. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

"When I took up my responsibilities as Chairman-in-Office on 1 January, I was determined to highlight the strategic relevance of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to meeting the complex challenges we face today. The OSCE is intended to make Europe a space of peace, security, freedom and co-operation; together with the participating States, we furthered our common work toward that goal this year.

I strongly believe that the OSCE's role as a forum for dialogue for the 56 participating States is of the utmost importance in bridging our differences and achieving our common security. Therefore, we insisted that all sensitive issues be aired and steadfastly refused to shy from any battles – regardless of their potential for ultimate consensus. We spearheaded the introduction of the Permanent Council's new three-committee structure, which helped channel and focus debate. We also addressed evolving contemporary issues such as terrorism and threats to overall security, environmental degradation and intolerance against Muslims.

A detailed account of what we have achieved follows. Our work culminated in the Madrid Ministerial Council, where, in our most important achievement, we restored the truly political nature of the Organization. Against all odds, we found a solution to the issue of future OSCE Chairmanships from 2009 through 2011, ensuring greater continuity for the Organization. We also agreed together to engage with Afghanistan, one of our Partners for Co-operation, mapping out new avenues for concrete action by the Organization. We issued a *Declaration on Environment and Security* which highlighted the importance of the link between these two issues and, for the first time, we adopted a Ministerial *Decision on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation.*"

2007  
Chairman-in-Office  
Miguel Angel Moratinos

## Madrid Ministerial Council results

The Spanish Chairmanship determined at the start of the year that the Ministerial Council meeting must reclaim its role as the annual occasion to provide political guidance and visibility to the work of the Organization.

To do so, it made three pioneering choices. First, it developed an innovative, transparent and long-term approach to decision-making at the meeting. Early in the year, it canvassed delegations for the political issues each felt needed addressing at the Ministerial level. Then, it drafted a food-for-thought paper, dubbed *The Road to Madrid*, which detailed these issues. After further consultations with delegations, the Chairmanship put forth two further food-for-thought papers, detailing and making public the evolving consensus around these issues. The Permanent Council's new three-committee structure proved itself an excellent consultative tool in this process.

Second, it introduced a working Ministerial lunch on several topics of political interest. The 56 Ministers or their representatives debated, in particular, the future status of Kosovo in an articulate and constructive manner, within the framework of the OSCE. A majority of participating States called this innovation a highlight of the meeting.

Third, the Chairmanship insisted that the participating States confront the day's most contentious issues rather than skirt them. Healthy debate ensued on a number of topics. The dialogue underscored the Chairmanship's belief that the OSCE represents the best platform for debate and consensus-building in Europe and beyond. The Ministerial Council also achieved substantive results in a number of key areas, some of which are highlighted below.

### Chairmanships in 2009, 2010 and 2011

The Chairmanship engineered a diplomatic coup when it solved the problem of future chairmanships which had bedevilled the Organization for many months. A decision on Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization in 2009 had been postponed until Madrid at the 2006 Brussels Ministerial. Because the OSCE is run by a troika that comprises the past, current and upcoming Chairmanships, a solution to this question was essential to securing continuity for the Organization.



*“A positive outcome regarding our bid for the 2009 Chairmanship could have a multiplicative effect on the modernization of our country and region as a whole. It would encourage other Central Asian States to move towards liberalization and greater openness of their political and economic systems.”*

— Kazakhstan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marat Tazhin, addressing the Permanent Council on 30 April

↗ The source of the river Mundo in the Castilla-La Mancha region spills over into magnificent waterfalls. Water resources are a precious commodity in Spain as its temperatures and rainfall are increasingly affected by climate change. (TourSpain)

## The importance of dialogue

*It is the nature of healthy debate that agreement will not be reached on all topics. This was no less true at the Madrid Ministerial Council than at other important political gatherings. Several topics sparked vehement disagreement. But because the Spanish Chairmanship put considerable emphasis on reviving an open exchange of views, these should be seen as a reaffirmation of the OSCE's commitment to dialogue and underscore the value of the OSCE as such a forum. The Chairmanship was encouraged that it was able to keep all these negotiations going until the end of the meeting. On some issues, participating States came very close to agreement.*

### Ministerial Declaration

*The Chairmanship worked hard to put together the first general political Ministerial Declaration since 2002, but unfortunately, as many had expected, the Council was unable to achieve consensus given divisions among participating States over a number of key issues. The Council addressed the region's frozen conflicts. It issued a statement on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but was unable to agree on statements on Moldova or Georgia.*

### The OSCE's legal status

*Also chief among the issues that failed to reach consensus was the topic of OSCE legal status, part of the Organization's continued work to boost its effectiveness. Debate remained polarized between those who believe there is a need for an OSCE Charter or Statute, and those who do not. The Chairmanship regrets that this meant that the wonderful work done by Dutch Ambassador Ida van Veldhuizen-Rothenbuecher and the Group of Legal Experts in negotiating a Convention, which details OSCE staff members' privileges and immunities, did not receive the recognition it deserved. Still, by attaching the Convention to the Chairman-in-Office's Ministerial Statement, the continuity of their work was ensured.*

### Draft decisions

*Draft decisions on human rights defenders and effective participation also failed to find consensus, as did the issue of election observation.*

*The Chairmanship believes these issues will need further debate in the future, provided that existing commitments are not undermined.*

*A draft Ministerial Declaration on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine also failed to find consensus. However, 32 OSCE participating States supported a separate statement on this issue.*

Under the so-called "Spanish compromise", Kazakhstan will become the first Central Asian State and the first former Soviet State to chair the Organization.

The Ministers approved a package of Chairmanships for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania, respectively, will chair the organization following Finland in 2008. The Chairmanship thanked the three countries for their flexibility in reaching an agreement and congratulated them on their upcoming roles.

### Engagement with Afghanistan

The Ministerial Council approved *Decision No.4* to step up the OSCE's engagement with Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan, with a particular focus on intensifying OSCE action to help secure and manage borders between the OSCE's Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, train police and support the fight against drug trafficking. The *Decision* follows Afghanistan's September request for assistance in these areas.

The *Decision* not only underscores the Chairmanship's belief that Afghanistan's security is of vital importance to the OSCE region but also opens up new avenues for OSCE activities.

Though there was some concern at the Ministerial Council meeting that the OSCE might overstretch its limited resources, the final *Decision* struck a delicate balance between keeping the scope of current commitments limited without foreclosing any future decisions to broaden the range of activities, should that be desired.

The OSCE launched a project to train Afghanistan's anti-drug police in November.

### Environment

Another major achievement of the Ministerial – itself a carbon neutral event – was a number of important decisions on environmental security.

With the *Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security*, Ministers took a decisive step in bringing the link between security and the environment, which the OSCE has affirmed since the Helsinki Final Act, to the forefront of its programmatic activities.

The Ministers noted that environmental degradation could trigger migratory pressures and



An Afghan trainee sits in a simulated Russian 2154 civil air jet at a specialized training facility during a course on fighting drug trafficking facilitated and financed by the OSCE and held at the Russian Advanced Police Academy in Domodedovo, Russia on 26 November. (OSCE)

contribute to conflict. Climate change could exacerbate environmental challenges. Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning, on the other hand, could help diminish tensions. The OSCE has the potential to widen and deepen its co-operation in this sphere with other relevant international organizations.

The OSCE's involvement in one of the most pressing topics on the global agenda, climate change, particularly given its innovative approach, opens a promising new area for the future work of the Organization.

The Ministers also agreed a *Decision* on water management, marking the first time participating States reached consensus on the issue. In *Decision No. 7*, the Ministers urged greater co-operation between the OSCE and the UN Economic Commission for Europe and encouraged participating States to consider the ratification of relevant existing international legal instruments.

### **Decisions on countering terrorism**

Ministers put together an innovative and comprehensive package in the fight against terrorism, addressing another of the Chairmanship's priorities. The Ministers issued a statement in support of the United Nations *Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* and agreed two *Decisions*.

*Decision No. 5* focuses on public-private partnerships, a fresh approach in the battle against terrorism. The Ministers tasked the Secretary General and OSCE Institutions to continue to promote the involvement of the private sector in appropriate counter-terrorist activities, to co-ordinate a follow-up conference on partnerships in Vienna in 2008, and to invite participating States and Partners for Co-operation to exchange information and best practices in this field.

*Decision No. 6* deals with protecting critical energy infrastructure from attack. The Ministers called upon participating States to work individually and in co-operation to ensure adequate protection for such infrastructure. They asked the Secretary General to explore opportunities for co-operation with relevant international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

### **Decisions to fight human trafficking, exploitation of children and tolerance and non-discrimination**

Ministers agreed three *Decisions* designed to defend basic human rights, including one on *Combating Trafficking of Human Beings for Labour Exploitation* and another focused on *Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet*.

The *Decision on Combating Trafficking* was the first OSCE Ministerial Council *Decision* addressing trafficking for labour exploitation as a stand-alone topic. It calls on participating States to adopt measures to combat this type of trafficking, such as providing assistance to victims, improving procedures to identify victims and ensuring effective sanctions against those who facilitate labour trafficking, including exploitative employers.

The second recommends that participating States, if they have not yet done so, take a series of measures to combat this crime, such as increasing

data collection and research into the crime or setting up hotlines for the reporting of child abuse, including in the form of sexual exploitation. The *Decision* commits the OSCE to deepening its work in this field by helping States meet these commitments. The Organization's Strategic Police Matters Unit will also set up an expert forum, a website and run an on-line workshop in 2008 to address this issue.

*Decision No. 10 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* acknowledges the specificity of different forms of intolerance, including intolerance against stateless persons, while at the same time recognizing the importance of taking a comprehensive approach. The *Decision* encourages the promotion of educational programmes in participating States that raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding, among a number of other measures. Ministers also said the OSCE should consider holding future conferences at the political level, possibly at regular intervals, with implementation meetings in 2008. Ministers also decided to consider an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilization's High-Level Group recommendations. In this *Decision*, Ministers took note of the presentation of the *Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools*, which were presented on the margins of the Madrid Ministerial Council.

### **Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation**

In the *Declaration*, Ministers reiterated the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation and encouraged further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States.



## The Chairmanship at work

The Chairmanship took up work to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization as stipulated by the 2006 Ministerial Council. It produced three food-for-thought reports that assessed the year's progress and made suggestions for further improvements.

The report *Food-for-Thought on the Review of the Implementation of Ministerial Council 2006 Decision on the Improvement of the Consultative Process* reviewed the performance of the new three-committee structure of the Permanent Council.

In *Food-For-Thought on the Participation of NGOs in OSCE Events*, the Chairmanship compared OSCE practice with the United Nations and Council of Europe. It presented suggestions for making rules for the participation of NGOs more precise while keeping the spirit of the openness for NGO participation as reflected in the relevant documents of the Organization.

Finally, in *Food-For-Thought on Implementation of Existing Commitments* the Chairmanship discussed the review of the implementation of agreed commitments by participating States as suggested by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' report *Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation*.

### Dealing with Political Crises

The Chairmanship-in-Office must be nimble and respond to political crises that arise during its tenure. **Ukraine.** In early April, the Chairman-in-Office issued a statement calling on all parties in Ukraine to find a swift solution to a political crisis that erupted as the President dissolved Parliament and called for early elections. The Prime Minister opposed the move. Several Members of Parliament asked the constitutional court to investigate the legality of the decree. When demonstrators disrupted constitutional court hearings in Kyiv two weeks later, the Chairman-in-Office, who was closely monitoring events, expressed his concern.

While the two government officials reached an accord on early elections on 4 May, there were still tensions at month's end. On 5 July, the Chairman-in-Office met with Ukraine's President, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, urging them to ensure that a sense of political maturity and responsibility prevail in the run-up to parliamentary elections on 30 September. He also said that Ukraine could afford no further delays of constitutional and economic reforms.



At Ukraine's invitation, the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights observed the election. They found the election was conducted mostly in line with international commitments and standards.

**Albania.** In response to a request from Albania's political parties, the Chairman-in-Office sent Ambassador Jose Pons, the Spanish Foreign Ministry's Director General for Europe and North America, to help in the search for a compromise that would allow local government elections to go ahead in a timely fashion.

With the OSCE's assistance, the parties came to an agreement and the elections took place on 18 February. The Chairman-in-Office highlighted the role of the Albanian Central Elections Commission in the development of the electoral process. He called on Albanian institutions and political parties to continue their co-operation in pursuit of electoral reform and asked them to follow up on recommendations from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights "to ensure that Albania gets a fully reliable electoral system."

### Bringing Political Will to Bear

**Croatia.** The OSCE, on the initiative of the Chairman-in-Office, decided in December to close its Mission to Croatia after 11 years, concluding that Croatia had successfully dealt with most of the issues contained in the broad mandate under which the Mission had been operating.

*"Our co-operation with the OSCE was extremely important in building institutions, in dealing with transition issues and in enhancing the democratic environment. The OSCE played a key role in post-conflict rehabilitation in our region..."*

— Croatia's Prime Minister, Ivo Sanader, addressing the Permanent Council on 10 July

It also decided to maintain a presence in the country with an Office in Zagreb to complete outstanding issues related to war crimes trials and residual aspects of the implementation of the housing care programmes.

"The Mission's good co-operation with the Croatian Government and the Government's efforts



### Engaging with Central Asia

*As security concerns converge with globalization, the Spanish Chairmanship was determined to further enhance the level of engagement of its Central Asian participating States in OSCE activities. The Chairmanship is convinced that active participation of Central Asian States is important for enhancing the security of the region and the rest of the OSCE.*

*The Chairman-in-Office visited the participating States in Central Asia from 10 to 14 April. He met top officials in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. His message was to intensify dialogue and expand ties and activities.*

*The Chairman-in-Office was pleased with the work accomplished. In addition to the Ministerial Council Decisions on neighbouring Afghanistan and the future Chairmanship of Central Asian State Kazakhstan, the Chairmanship chalked*

↪ Polling station officials explain procedures to a voter in Tirana during local elections in Albania on 18 February. (OSCE/Urdur Gunnarsdottir)

↑ The OSCE held a conference on prospects for trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation on 23 and 24 October in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. (OSCE)



up substantive results in a number of fields in various countries.

Tajikistan, which this year celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Peace Agreement that ended its civil war, continued to consolidate stability. An OSCE-Tajikistan task force met in Dushanbe on 27 March to assess Tajikistan's needs and priorities and the OSCE's activities. Hailed as "historic" and "particularly constructive" by the Foreign Ministry, the task force identified a number of possibilities for increased co-operation, including border management and security. Tajikistan hosted an OSCE seminar on transit transportation through Central Asia in Dushanbe on 23 and 24 October.

Uzbekistan also made an important contribution to the OSCE this year, hosting a conference in Tashkent in October on how low-cost technologies could be used to improve water and land management in Central Asia. Participants looked at irrigation, water treatment and desalination, the optimal combination of electricity production and water management, the enhancement of dam safety and flood prevention as well as environmental security and sustainable development in the Aral Sea Basin.

and motivation to fulfil its commitments are a true and genuine success, and I would like to congratulate Croatia on this achievement," said Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, Head of the Mission to Croatia.

**Kosovo.** The Permanent Council, which decides each December whether to extend the mandates for a further year for all its field operations, voted to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo by one month only, through the end of January.

At the end of that period, and at the end of each month afterwards, the mandate will be extended for another month unless a participating State objects in writing to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council.

If the mandate ends, the Mission will start the procedure for closing down without delay. At the same time, negotiations will start on the terms of a possible further engagement of the OSCE in Kosovo.

There were three official comments on the *Decision*. The European Union (EU) and a number of other delegations expressed their strong support for a continued OSCE engagement in Kosovo. They said they had been fully committed to extending the mandate for a full year and agreed to this *Decision* solely to prevent the mandate's expiry on 1 January 2008. The United States agreed with the EU. It also said that it regretted that two participating States insisted on the month-to-month mandate renewal which endangered an operation that has been the most forceful advocate for the minority populations in Kosovo. Serbia said the full and correct name of the Mission should be the OSCE Mission in Kosovo/Republic of Serbia.

## The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords is mandated to assist the Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia – in fulfilling the terms of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement of the Accords, such as mutual inspections of military assets.

In 2007, in total, the Parties conducted 20 inspections, each supported by OSCE assistants. Once more, the activities were conducted without problems in an environment of trust, openness and transparency.

All Parties to the Agreement continued to restructure and reorganize their armed forces. Consequently, Armaments Limited by the Agreement continued to be voluntarily destroyed even after the end of the Reduction Period.

Further reductions by all Parties are expected in the future. Since the implementation of the Agreement through the end of 2007, the Parties have reduced the number of heavy weapons by nearly 8,900 pieces.

This year, the Personal Representative was able to assist the Parties with the consolidation of several important changes. An important step in the transfer of the rights of the entities Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska to the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the establishment of a single Verification Agency at the State level in April.

Following Montenegro's accession to the Agreement as an independent Party in January, the Personal Representative assisted Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia with the negotiation of a bilateral Agreement on the Principles and Procedures for the Implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which was signed on 6 July. At the request of the Parties, the Office of the Representative subsequently drafted a formal amendment to the Agreement reflecting the division of the Article IV entitlements between the two Parties. The document has been distributed to the Parties for their consideration, with a view to the subsequent signature at government level and respective internal ratification.

In order to harmonize the exchange of information, documents and notifications, the Parties agreed to adopt common software in English provided by the OSCE. The integration process is almost complete.

*“I firmly believe that we all share the same goal in the Western Balkans: the achievement of a solution for Kosovo’s future status that promotes the consolidation of democratic values and institutions, a solution that promotes the economic transformation of the Western Balkans and the security architecture of all of Europe.”*

— Serbia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vuk Jeremic, addressing the Permanent Council on 17 July

**Israel.** OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation met in Tel Aviv on 18 and 19 December to discuss combating intolerance and promoting mutual respect.

Encouraged by the Chairman-in-Office, Israel hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> *Mediterranean Seminar* for the first time since 1996. The *Seminar* was attended by 34 participating States and six Partners for Co-operation, including Mediterranean Partners Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

The *Seminar* looked at OSCE tolerance-related commitments as well as OSCE tools and mechanisms to assist in their implementation. Other topics included promoting respect for cultural and religious diversity and facilitating dialogue; combating discrimination against women, migrants and other groups; and the role of women, educators and the media in countering violence.

### Addressing protracted conflicts

The Chairman-in-Office strove to bring down the remaining barriers that divide communities in areas of conflict but he recognized at the start of his tenure that there was no replacement for the political will of the parties involved. The Chairmanship underlined the need to prepare the ground for peace in future by working to overcome distrust and build platforms for peace now.

The Chairman-in-Office took up this prime responsibility of his office by engaging with all the parties in these protracted conflicts in a series of meetings, consultations and trips aimed at reducing tension in these regions and developing a climate more favourable to advancing toward a solution. In addition to the respective field operations, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference Andrzej Kasprzyk, Special Envoy Josep Borrell, Personal Representative Miomir Zuzul and Ambassador Pons of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, assisted him.

**Moldova.** Shortly after assuming its new OSCE responsibilities, the Chairmanship kicked off its work on the conflict surrounding Moldova’s breakaway Transnistrian region. Three meetings of the mediators – the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine – and the observers – the EU and the U.S. – took place in 2007. Two were hosted in Madrid, on 25 January and 25 May, and one in Vienna on 30 March.

In April, the Chairman-in-Office asked Ambassador Pons to travel to Moldova and talk to the two sides. He himself traveled to Moldova on 7 and 8 October. In meetings with the Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and other top officials, he commended them on their efforts in pursuing internal reform. He also held talks with the leadership of the Transnistrian region in Tiraspol. He emphasized the need to ensure freedom of movement of goods, services and people across the Dniester/Nistru River.

Later that month, the mediators and observers said they believed that the Chairman-in-Office’s visit had increased the chances of restarting the talks with the parties before the Madrid Ministerial Meeting, and an informal meeting with the parties’ negotiators, the mediators and the observers took place in Odessa. The mediators and observers praised Moldova’s work to address common problems in the socio-economic area, as well as its extension through the end of 2008 of a registration regime for Transnistrian enterprises. They also commended the Transnistrian leadership’s decision to remove duties on certain goods crossing the river.

**The conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** Throughout the year, the Chairman-in-Office and his Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, supported the work of the French, Russian and U.S. Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Chairman-in-Office met three times with the Co-Chairs in Madrid, and several times with Armenia’s and Azerbaijan’s respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman-in-Office visited Azerbaijan and Armenia on 4 and 5 June. He met top officials and representatives of civil society in both countries. He said the Co-Chairs’ intensive mediation efforts had brought Armenia and Azerbaijan closer to a framework agreement for a peaceful settlement.

On 8 November, the Co-Chairs informed the Permanent Council that the electoral year 2008 promised not to be idle, but rather a year of working intensely with both sides to finalize the basic principles for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement. In Madrid, they met with the Chairman-in-Office on 14 November. During the



## High-Level Planning Group

*The High-Level Planning Group (H LPG), comprising military experts, was established at the Budapest Summit in 1994 to prepare operational plans for a possible peacekeeping operation in the area affected by the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference. The Spanish Chairmanship appointed Col. Santiago Rodríguez Santafe of the Spanish Armed Forces as Head of the H LPG. He assumed his duties on 1 January.*

*The H LPG focused this year on developing strategies in light of the uncertainty in the ongoing negotiation process, in line with a new directive issued by the Chairman-in-Office early in the year. It updated its plan for adding personnel in case of an emergency. On two occasions, officers of the H LPG participated in monitoring on the line of contact.*

*The H LPG conducted briefings for a number of delegations, liaised with other international organizations, including the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and participated in training courses and international conferences.*

Madrid Ministerial Council, Ministers adopted a statement on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, France's Minister for Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner and U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns formally presented a set of *Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict* to the Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers for transmission to the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

**Georgian-Ossetian conflict.** Through much of the year, tension ran high in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Chairman-in-Office tried to defuse those tensions through positive dialogue. The EU Special Representative, Ambassador Peter Semneby, discussed the EU strategy in this conflict with the Chairmanship in Madrid on 13 January. The Vice Prime Minister and the Minister for the Resolution of Conflicts of Georgia held meetings with the Chairman-in-Office in Madrid on 6 and 16 March. The Chairmanship-in-Office participated in the informal Joint Control Commission meeting in Istanbul on 23 and 24 March. The Chairman-in-Office met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia in Brussels on 15 May and 3 September.

When an unexploded guided missile, found in the southeast of the zone of the conflict in August, further exacerbated tensions, the Chairman-in-Office spoke by phone with the Georgian and the Russian Ministers for Foreign Affairs and offered the OSCE's help in investigating the incident.

From 20 to 24 August, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Miomir Zuzul, held talks in Tbilisi and Moscow on the incident. The Chairman-in-Office travelled to Georgia on 3 and 4 September, briefing President Mikheil Saakashvili on the Personal Representative's report of the incident. He made clear that the tensions were in no one's interest and would resonate across the region. He said the OSCE would do whatever was necessary to foster a climate of understanding between Georgia and Russia.

In the wake of the Personal Representative's mission, the Chairmanship proposed a forward-looking approach, putting the emphasis on preventive and confidence-building measures. Among such measures, the Chairman-in-Office supported the proposal to increase the number of OSCE Mission Monitoring Officers to better monitor the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Steering Committee on the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and adjacent areas had very successful meetings in Vienna and Georgia. The *Programme* carried out a range of projects.

*“The only path we see to peace in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia is the same path that we see for all the people of Georgia: we must deliver on the promise of individual liberty, economic opportunity, quality of life and human security. This approach, I believe, reflects the spirit in which the OSCE was founded.”*

— Georgia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gela Bezhushvili, addressing the Permanent Council on 14 June

## Across dimensions: thematic achievements

### Politico-military dimension

Work in the politico-military dimension was a priority of the Spanish Chairmanship.

**Forum for Security Co-operation.** The Madrid Ministerial Council meeting adopted *Decision No. 3 on Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation*, the first such global *Decision* on the Forum and another success of the Ministerial. This *Decision* will serve as a basis for the activities of the Forum during 2008. Spain, which assumes the Forum's Chairmanship for the first session of 2008, hopes that the *Decision* will help the Forum to enhance its role as one of the Organization's decision-making bodies.

This *Decision* reaffirmed that participating States would ensure that their efforts in the Forum to promote arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention would be coherent, interrelated and complementary.

It also recalled a 2001 *Decision* that tasked the Forum with addressing those aspects of new security challenges that fall within its mandate and with updating its activities accordingly.

The Ministerial Council expressed its desire to build further on the following OSCE documents: the *Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century*; the *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*; the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition*; the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*; and the relevant decisions adopted by the Forum.

The Ministers recognized the security and safety risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including liquid rocket fuel, in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some participating States and reaffirmed the will to continue providing assistance in destroying them or upgrading their stockpile management and security practices. This was also demonstrated during the side event chaired by the Danish Chairmanship of the Forum on the margins of the Ministerial Council.

Ministers also expressed their determination to continue enhancing the implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures within the framework of the *Vienna Document 1999*, taking into account the evolving nature of threats to security and stability in the OSCE area, and to continue enhancing the implementation of the

*Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. **The Annual Security Review Conference.** This year, the *Annual Security Review Conference* looked at challenges in this dimension of security and at how to develop a coherent approach to OSCE activities in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-crisis rehabilitation. It further reviewed implementation of the *OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century*.

**Dialogue on security issues.** Another important goal of the Chairmanship in this dimension was to increase dialogue within the OSCE on all security issues in the OSCE area. It saw joint meetings of the Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation as the appropriate venue to discuss these matters. The Chairmanship noted that a number of disagreements ensued, reaffirming that, despite questions from some quarters, the politico-military dimension remains an effective instrument for consolidating security in the OSCE region.

Early in the year, for example, Russia called for discussions of a U.S. missile defence proposal. It also stated that it would be expedient to freeze its commitments under the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)*, which provides for cuts in the conventional military arsenals of NATO and former Warsaw Pact States. The *CFE Treaty* was negotiated in parallel with talks among participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe – the OSCE forerunner – on confidence-building measures.

*“It is obvious that the future of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the future of missile defence are very topical issues that have direct relevance to European security and to the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic region.”*

— Russian Federation Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, addressing the Permanent Council on 23 May

The Russian Federation, a *Treaty Signatory*, convened an *Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty* in Vienna in June, alleging that NATO was delaying ratification of the *Adaptation of the Treaty* signed in 1999. A number of States had said they intended to ratify the *Adapted CFE Treaty* once commitments concerning the withdrawal of Russian forces and ammunition from Georgia and Moldova had been fulfilled. Russia later suspended its participation in the *CFE*.

**Security committee.** The Permanent Council's newly established Security Committee was instrumental in channelling and driving forward work on non-military and political aspects of security.

A Chairmanship perception paper formed the basis for the Committee's work programme which focused on: the fight against terrorism, border management and security, policing, organized crime and anti-drug co-operation and preparations for the 2007 *Annual Security Review Conference*. Committee Chairperson Ambassador Peter Lizak, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, presented concrete objectives and priorities to the participating States at the Committee's first meeting on 6 February.

The Security Committee met 13 times during 2007, and discussions focused on the following issues:



Russian Federation Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)



Forged documents confiscated by the Spanish Police from immigrants exploited for labour purposes, November (Spanish National Police)

- implementation of the OSCE work programme for 2007 on preventing and combating terrorism, adopted by the Permanent Council in Brussels in December, 2006, and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in preventing and combating terrorism, with the support of the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;

- follow-up of the Permanent Council *Decision* on the terms of reference for the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network and the implementation of the *OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* adopted in 2005. The Conflict Prevention Centre provided support;

- follow-up of the Permanent Council *Decision* on enhancing international anti-drug co-operation;

- follow-up of the provisions and recommendations to the participating States included in Brussels Ministerial Council *Decision No. 5 on Organized Crime*, and follow-up of the Brussels Ministerial Council *Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems*;

- follow-up of OSCE police-related activities, including activities aimed at developing an OSCE community-based policing framework. The Strategic Police Matters Unit provided support on these issues;

- OSCE Security Sector Governance/Reform-related activities with a view to presenting a final document at the Ministerial Council in Madrid;

- the agenda, timetable and organization of a workshop on approaches to maritime border security co-operation involving all three OSCE security dimensions, as directed by the Permanent Council *Decision*;

- preparations for the *Annual Security Review Conference* held on 19 and 20 June, taking into account the contribution from the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The Security Committee prepared the following statement and decisions adopted by the Madrid Ministerial Council: *Ministerial Statement on supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*; *Decision No. 5 on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism*; and *Decision No. 6 on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attack*.

The Committee prepared two decisions later adopted by the Permanent Council: one on the implementation of the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and another on combating the threat of illicit drugs and precursors.

The Committee contributed to the Chairmanship's perception paper on the Organization's basic norms and principles in the field of security sector governance and reform, which was issued during the Madrid Ministerial Council.

The Committee Chairperson also promoted co-operation with the Forum on issues of mutual relevance that involved more than the military dimension. Consultations with the Forum Chairs Cyprus, Croatia and Denmark on this co-operation were held on several issues during the year. Joint Forum-Permanent

Council meetings provided effective opportunities to address multi-dimensional issues with contributions from the Security Committee.

**Counter-terrorism work.** Under the Spanish Chairmanship, the OSCE continued to collaborate in helping participating States implement international agreements and conventions including UN *Security Council Resolution 1373*, a wide-ranging anti-terrorism resolution, and the international legal framework for combating terrorism.

The OSCE's most outstanding 2007 activities in the area of counter-terrorism were the *Workshop on Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters to Counter Terrorism*; the *Workshop on the Implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/03 on Travel Document Security*; the *High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism*; and the *Political Public-Private Partnership Conference* on countering terrorism.

Together with the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit, the Chairmanship organized a conference on *Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society, and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism*, which determined that the fight against terrorism must be as multi-dimensional as the threat itself. While governments rely on diplomacy, law enforcement and military operations to fight terrorism, participants at the conference underscored that private and civil sectors were instrumental in promoting sustainable economic growth, helping generate changes quickly, creating jobs for minority communities and using technology to connect with youth. The conference was held in Vienna on 31 May and 1 June.

The 2007 *High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism*, organized by the Chairmanship jointly with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, recognized that solidarity with victims of terrorism needs to go beyond fulfilling the immediate physical and psychological needs of the injured. Discussions at the conference held in Vienna on 13 and 14 September with the participation of some 200 government representatives, legal professionals and civil society representatives focused on the victim, victim-assistance programmes, the victim in legal proceedings and the role of civil society.

Another important event was the *OSCE Expert Conference on Fighting the Threat of Illicit Drugs*.

**Policing.** The Chairmanship and the Secretariat's Strategic Police Matters Unit organized a workshop on the role of police and co-operation against terrorism in Madrid on 8 and 9 May. Participants discussed the need for a holistic approach to policing in societies, represented by the role of community policing, and secondly the need for strengthening co-operation among police and intelligence communities.

Enhancing co-operation among Police, Prosecutors and Judges in the investigation of cross-border organized crime was another successful project carried out in Albania and Montenegro and funded by the Chairmanship. The project contributed significantly to improved co-ordination of the criminal justice system and the international fight against organized crime.

Together with the Unit, the Chairmanship organized a workshop on gender balance in police management positions in Madrid on 5 and 6 June. More than 25 delegations discussed how to better recruit and promote women for more democratic and egalitarian police forces.



To help practitioners with good practices in the prosecution and sentencing of criminals, the Spanish Chairmanship continued the work of the Belgian Chairmanship by translating, printing, distributing and presenting in Astana a *Reference Guide on Criminal Procedure*.

The protection of children against sexual exploitation on the Internet and the co-operation of police, prosecutors, non-governmental organizations and the business community was the topic of a workshop organized in Vienna on 20 and 21 September, in part funded by the Chairmanship.

### Economic and environmental dimension

The Spanish Chairmanship championed more visibility for the issue of environmental security in the OSCE region. It focused particularly on the problem of soil degradation and contamination and on the need for a rational and effective use of water resources.

The Chairmanship believes that only through dealing with the deterioration of ecosystems can we hope to counteract the resulting threats to security: poverty and environmentally induced migration. Similarly, the just, rational and effective management of increasingly scarce water resources is key to regional security in a territory where some 180 watercourses cross country boundaries.

The main annual event in the second dimension is the *Economic and Environmental Forum*. The 15<sup>th</sup> Forum was held in two separate sessions, the first in Vienna on 22 and 23 January and the second in Prague from 21 to 23 May. Preparatory conferences were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in November 2006 and in Zaragoza, Spain in March.

Participants in Zaragoza discussed issues affecting international co-operation in sustainable water management, an area of considerable OSCE expertise. Participants were briefed on the upcoming *Expo 2008 on Water and Sustainable Development*. The event,

which Zaragoza will also host, is expected to be the largest to date on the topic. The first OSCE Ministerial-level *Decision* on water also began its gestation during the conference.

The OSCE supports trans-boundary water management through activities around the Sava, Dniester, Chu-Talas and Kura-Araks rivers, and the Organization could consider offering similar support to water co-operation projects between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on the Amu-Darya River.

The theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> *Economic and Environmental Forum* was *Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management*.

At the January session, more than 250 policy makers, high-level experts and representatives of the OSCE's 56 participating States discussed how to co-operate and co-ordinate efforts to reduce environmental harm. They devoted work to poverty and environmentally induced migration, the negative social effects of land degradation and soil erosion. They also discussed how to maintain a balance between economic growth and the use of natural resources.

In May, the conference focused on tackling environmental security threats, transforming concerns about threats into actions that will promote stability. Consensus among the 300 decision-makers, experts and officials from more than 60 countries crystallized around the need to study more closely the link between environmental sustainability and security. The Chairmanship sees a clear mandate for the OSCE to be more active in this area. The *Forum's* two sessions contributed to the *Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security*.

Following the *Forum*, the Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, organized a conference focused on the



### Exploring possibilities

*On the occasion of International Environment Day on 5 June, more than 40 OSCE delegates visited the Austrian city of Guessing, which is powered exclusively by renewable energy.*

*The delegation toured a biomass gasification plant, a photovoltaic plant and a school for solar energy. Guessing provides an example of feasible, cost-effective and environmentally sound technologies to address the modern carbon-reduction challenge and participants discussed how to apply the city's energy concept to other countries.*

*The visit was made possible through support from the Spanish Chairmanship, the Republic of Austria and the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Guessing.*



← This photo of a young Gypsy couple getting water from an underground water pipe in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, was one of the winners of the 2007 OSCE Photo Contest. Like many countries in Central Asia, Uzbekistan often faces water shortages. (Shavkat Boltaev)

↑ During a visit to the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Guessing, Austria, on 5 June, OSCE representatives learned about the centre's biomass power plant. (OSCE/Martina Gadotti)

→ King Juan Carlos I of Spain speaks at the inauguration ceremony of the new OSCE Secretariat in Vienna on 21 November. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

→ Journalists interview League of Arab States Secretary General Amre Moussa at the *Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* in Cordoba on 9 October. (OSCE/Susanna Loof)



## Training diplomats on environmental issues

*Delegates on the Permanent Council's new Economic and Environmental Committee received training in environmental diplomacy in Vienna on 19 and 20 October.*

*The 21 participants received a briefing on the history and constraints in the application of international environmental law. They explored the typical negotiating positions of government and industry representatives who generally favour short-term economic gain over environmental protection or social equity. They looked at the security implications of environmental diplomacy, with a special focus on energy security and finally they took part in a negotiation simulation exercise.*

*"This course is definitely a good initiative as diplomats need technical background on issues like Environment and Security that will take on ever more importance in foreign policy," one participant said.*

*The course was organized by the Spanish Chairmanship, the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and other Secretariat units, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the University of Geneva, UNEP's partner in the Environmental Diplomacy Training Programme, and funded by the Spanish Chairmanship.*

challenges facing the Central Asia region in the areas of degradation of land and soil pollution and the transfer of technologies in these fields.

To follow up the Spanish Chairmanship's focus on water in 2007, the participating States decided to dedicate the 16<sup>th</sup> *Economic and Environmental Forum* to co-operation on OSCE maritime and inland waterways. The First *Preparatory Conference* took place in Helsinki in September.

In the economic arena, the OSCE followed up on the 2006 Chairmanship's emphasis on transport. It organized a conference in Dushanbe in October on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until 2015. The attending Central Asian States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia issued a joint statement committing themselves to strengthening dialogue and transparency on transit and border issues. They also pledged to work to reduce the negative environmental impacts of transit.

On 12 and 13 December, the Arabic-language version of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies* was launched in Rabat, Morocco. The *Handbook* is a joint effort of the OSCE, International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization and was financed by the Spanish Chairmanship. It analyses how to handle immigration most effectively.

## Human dimension

The Spanish Chairmanship focused on fighting intolerance and encouraging participation in pluralistic societies. To highlight its goals, it launched two innovative events.

The first, a conference to fight intolerance and discrimination specifically against Muslims, was designed to help counter what the Chairman-in-Office characterized in his January 11 address to the Permanent Council as an "alarming" problem. The second, the OSCE's first-ever Youth Forum, aimed at mobilizing the post-Helsinki generations for the defence and promotion of OSCE principles and values and to highlight how young people's creativity, spontaneity and capacity for transformation could help the OSCE's work in building democratic and pluralistic societies.

## Challenging intolerance against Muslims

The OSCE *Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* delved into the causes of discriminatory behaviour and focused on developing solutions. The 417 participants from participating States and Partners for Co-operation, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, experts on Muslims in society and tolerance looked

at specific issues such as how education could help overcome intolerance or what could be learned from communities' work in fighting discrimination. One hundred eleven journalists covered the *Conference*.

As part of their overall fight against intolerance and discrimination, the Chairman's three Personal Representatives in this field participated in the meeting. Anastasia Crickley, the Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focuses on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions. Gert Weisskirchen is the Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Ambassador Omur Orhun, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, told the conference that the environment in which Muslims live has deteriorated considerably since September 11. So-called Islamic terrorism or Islamic extremism is often falsely portrayed as the source of all evil, fanning existing prejudice.

The *Conference* took place on 9 and 10 October in Cordoba, a city with historic echoes of mutual respect and co-existence (or *convivencia*) of Muslims, Jews and Christians. The *Conference* followed up on Ministerial Council *Decisions* reached in Porto and Sofia, as well as earlier conferences, such as a 2005 conference on anti-Semitism, also held in Cordoba.

It also followed up on the *High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding: Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and other Forms of Intolerance* held in Bucharest on 7 and 8 June. The Chairman-in-Office said the Bucharest Conference demonstrated the OSCE's unwavering commitment to promoting freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.

***"We will have to find ways and means in order for this spirit (of tolerance), led by Spain today, to be felt among the masses: that we have to live together, that Islam and Christianity and all other religions, including Judaism, all of them worship God and there are no reasons for confrontation, but reasons for mutual respect and tolerance,"***

— Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, addressing the *Conference*.

In his concluding *Declaration*, the Chairman-in-Office said participating States bore primary responsibility for promoting interfaith dialogue and addressing acts of discrimination. International developments, he said, could never justify intolerance or discrimination. The *Declaration* called on Muslim communities



to engage fully within society. It found that education, research as well as legislation and law enforcement could play useful roles in the battle against intolerance.

Non-governmental organizations participated in a preparatory meeting on 8 October in Jaen as well as in the *Conference* itself, to which they presented their conclusions and recommendations.

### Engaging with youth

The Youth Forum recognizes that today's youth will project the OSCE's values, principles and commitments into a new era. The event, held in Madrid on 5 and 6 November, followed up on a Brussels Ministerial Council *Decision*, which pointed out the particular contribution young people can make to fighting intolerance and discrimination.

The 100 participants from 35 participating States and Partners for Co-operation tackled topics pertinent to the OSCE's three dimensions of security. Their closing *Madrid Youth Declaration* suggested that participating States enlist young people's work and views more actively in the OSCE's pursuit of regional security.

Specifically, the *Declaration* suggests the Chairman-in-Office inform the participating States of relevant young people's ideas in regular reports, consider inviting youth representatives as observers to some of the OSCE's expert meetings, further support youth initiatives, transform the Youth Forum into an annual gathering and consider youth perspectives in decision-making. The *Declaration* also makes a series of specific recommendations by dimension.

*“This meeting is important because it gives an opportunity to the leaders of the future to meet and discuss important issues.”*

— Michael Botstein, a 24-year-old student from Hebrew University in Jerusalem

*“At this meeting, we have had an open discussion of different questions. We had the possibility to discuss them without any criticism from the different sides.”*

— Igor Pivovar, a lawyer at the NGO Centre for Inter-ethnic research in Chisinau, Moldova

Beyond these two headline events, the OSCE's work in the human dimension involved a full palette of activities.

This year's first *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting* addressed how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression could be secured and advanced. *Freedom of Assembly, Association and Expression: Fostering Full and Equal Participation in Pluralist Societies*, held in Vienna on 29 and 30 March, identified the challenges OSCE governments face in ensuring all citizens' equal rights to express their opinions and interests, and focused on how to overcome any obstacles.

The promotion and protection of human rights was the focus of the second *Supplementary Meeting*,

held in Vienna on 12 and 13 July. The meeting examined the role played by national courts, civil society and national human rights institutions in dealing with violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

*Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children*, the third and final *Supplementary Meeting*, focused on understanding and addressing vulnerability factors. It also examined legislation and its implementation, including social protection and criminal law, and good practices in prevention and protection.

*“When I look at the important work that is being done in support of elections, in support of peacekeeping, in support of human rights, and in support of the security architecture that is the basis on which a Europe whole, free and at peace is emerging, I want to pledge to you that the United States will remain active in this Organization ...”*

— U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice addressing the Permanent Council on 31 May

In May, the 2007 OSCE *Human Dimension Seminar* focused on *Effective Participation and Representation in Democratic Societies*, a Chairmanship priority. The *Seminar*, which builds closely upon prior OSCE events on democracy and democratization held in May 2004 and in November 2006, gave representatives of participating States, non-governmental organizations, civil society, international organizations, OSCE institutions and field operations the opportunity to discuss current forms of participation and representation and identify ways to improve them.

From 24 September to 5 October, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* took place in Warsaw. The largest human rights conference in Europe, it is also the only such event where representatives of civil society sit with governments on an equal footing. For two weeks, interested parties came together to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on the protection of human rights, the rule of law, non-discrimination and other human dimension matters. More than 1,000 delegates, including 334 non-governmental organizations, attended. A special day of the meeting was devoted to the topic of gender and security. Further selected topics were combating intolerance and discrimination and the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. The Chairmanship organized a side-event on the *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security Implementation in Practice*, moderated by the Spanish Ambassador-at-large for Gender Equality, Aurora Mejia.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado (OSCE/Susanna Loof)



Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos at the OSCE Youth Forum in Madrid on 5 November (OSCE/Susanna Loof)