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Canadian Delegation to the  
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in Europe



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

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS OF  
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MONTENEGRO, H.E. MR. MILAN ROČEN  
683<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
25 OCTOBER 2007**

Canada joins others in welcoming the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Montenegro, His Excellency Milan Ročen to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his address.

We note with satisfaction the strides made by Montenegro following its independence in 2006. We are pleased to see continued progress in democratic consolidation and reform processes.

In particular, we congratulate Montenegro on the signature of a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union. This marks an important step for Montenegro.

We also welcome the Foreign Minister's remarks regarding the positive contribution of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, a view we share. The Mission is providing assistance in many areas, including the rule of law, democratic governance and law enforcement. We encourage the Montenegrin authorities to continue to work closely with the Mission.

At the same time, however, much work remains to be done, something the Foreign Minister acknowledged in his remarks this morning. In this regard, we invite Montenegro to redouble its efforts with respect to corruption, money laundering and organized crime.

Montenegro has reached several significant milestones over the past year, yet there will be many challenges ahead. We urge Montenegro to make the fight against organized crime and corruption a top priority, along with border policing and the fight against human trafficking. Close cooperation with our OSCE Mission will also foster stability and security in Montenegro and will further contribute to its democratic development.

We thank the Foreign Minister for his remarks on the current and future priorities of the OSCE. We wish he and his country, the youngest country in the OSCE, as he put it, all the best for the future.