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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
INTERVENTION IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY JAN KUBIS, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
703RD MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
28 FEBRUARY 2008**

Canada joins others in warmly welcoming His Excellency Foreign Minister Jan Kubis back to the Permanent Council in his capacity as current Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. We thank him for his presentation between our two organizations.

Having spent so many years as OSCE Secretary General, Minister Kubis' deep knowledge of our work can only assist in underscoring the already close cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

As an Observer State, Canada fully shares the same basic values that form the Council of Europe's core mandate: human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Canada also contributes directly to the activities of the Council in various regions in Europe through the Canadian International Development Agency, thereby contributing know-how, and assisting countries in carrying out desirable reforms.

The OSCE and Council of Europe's commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law is also clearly seen through our cooperation in the area of elections and legislative reform.

Canada would highlight that while the values of our organisations closely coincide, the comparative advantage of each in promoting our respective commitments is unique, as is the membership of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

We are pleased that we have fruitful and ongoing cooperation in the areas of countering terrorism, combating human trafficking, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and ensuring the rights of national minorities.

We agree with Minister Kubis that we need to prevent duplication. Canada believes that coordination is pivotal to ensure that our collective work does not overlap and is not done at the expense of either the OSCE's or the Council of Europe's added value.

Our Delegation looks forward to continued common efforts to achieving our shared goals throughout the OSCE region. We should build efficiently on the complementarities between our organisations.