

PC.DEL/542/12
14 June 2012

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

Delegation of Andorra

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ANDORRA AT THE
916th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 14 June 2012

**In response to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Albania, H.E. Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto**

Andorra joins the delegations that have already spoken in warmly welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, His Excellency Mr. Haxhinasto, to the Permanent Council today in his capacity as Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and thanks him for his statement.

We have aligned ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Since Andorra will be the next country to chair the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe after Albania in November of this year, I should like to make some observations in a national capacity with respect to the priorities set and co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

We believe it is extremely important to address the issues of promoting intercultural dialogue and tolerance education at this time of economic crisis that can lead to protectionist policies and nationalist speeches jeopardizing the cohesion of our societies. Tolerance education is itself a conflict prevention instrument and the basis for creating a community of values that respects diversity and guarantees inclusion.

I should like to underscore the importance that my country attaches to education and protecting the most vulnerable, in particular women and children, which are the main areas in which the Government of Andorra is active as regards co-operation.

We also support all the efforts aimed at implementing the recent Brighton Declaration to guarantee the effectiveness and smooth operation of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE complement one another in strengthening respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy in the region. In this context, we are in favour of co-ordinated and coherent co-operation between both organizations, co-operation focused on specific strategies to create synergies and avoid overlaps. We believe it is worth examining possible ways of providing joint assistance to the countries that have experienced the Arab Spring. On the other hand, we hope that the head of the Council of Europe Liaison Office in Vienna can participate in OSCE meetings on a regular basis.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the Deputy Prime Minister all the best in chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and let me reiterate that you can count on Andorra's support in carrying out the programme of work presented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.