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Introduction

Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuayubé
SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

Spain has always been fully involved in all OSCE activities and committed to its principles and objectives. The Helsinki Final Act and the meetings to revise the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), held in Madrid in 1983, were significant events for my country. After so many years of involvement, Spain will undertake the OSCE Chairmanship in 2007, at a crucial time for the organization’s future.

As are other international organizations at this beginning of the 21st century, the OSCE is debating its own structure and significance within a changing geo-political scene. Nevertheless, its uniqueness as the only security body comprising the Euro-Atlantic community and the Euro-Asian space remains intact. This circumstance is an opportunity for a country like Spain, which sincerely believes in the virtues of effective multilateralism for the proper functioning of international relations.

True to this approach, and from its own conception of the world, during its Chairmanship Spain will work to ensure the goals of peace and security that unite the community of Participating States in the OSCE, enhancing its capacity as a forum for dialogue and cooperation. In order to accomplish this, it is essential that the OSCE’s work towards adapting to the changes of the new century should continue, thus enabling Participating States to keep their faith in an organization in which all are subject to the same rules and undertake identical commitments.

The comprehensive concept of security, which is prevalent in the OSCE’s work, is, today more than ever, an indispensable tool for the inclusion within the same effort of all the tasks necessary to fight against the new threats. In a world that is undergoing momentous changes, this perception enables the inclusion of all elements, both those pertaining to the traditional political and military dimension and those relating to the environment or to the terrorist threat, which have such great impact nowadays.

During the Spanish Chairmanship, I will strive to preserve the idea of an OSCE in which the community spirit, one of respect for the States’ different standpoints, prevails and in which the sensitivities of all are taken into account.
Special envoy for the Spanish Chairmanship

Josep Borrell Fontelles was born on 24 April 1947 in the small town of Pobla de Segur in the Catalanian Pyrenees.

He has a Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, a Doctorate in Economic Sciences, a Master’s degree in Energy Economics, and a Master’s degree in Applied Mathematics.

In 1979 he was elected as counsellor in Spain’s first democratic municipal elections.

Between 1979 and 1982 he was appointed Head of Finance within the Madrid Regional Government and Secretary-General of the Budget in the first socialist government.

Between 1984 and 1996 he has been Treasury Minister and twice Minister for Public Works, Transport and the Environment.

He was elected Member of the Congress of Deputies in 1986 and reelected until 2004. In 1998 he became its party candidate for the office of Prime Minister.

During the period of 2002-2003 he was appointed member of the European Convention and in 2004 he was elected President of the European Parliament. He has been appointed “Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for the Spanish Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe” in 2007. In close cooperation with the Chairman-in-office he will work to fully develop the capacities of the Organization in various fields, paying attention to a comprehensive approach to security which constitutes the main feature of OSCE.
For Spain, the 2007 OSCE Chairmanship constitutes a new and extraordinary opportunity to continue to contribute, in the international sphere, to the defence and consolidation of democratic values, human rights and the Rule of Law which are the inspiration for our peaceful coexistence.

This Chairmanship doubtless constitutes a challenge for our operational capacities, but it is also on a par with the ambitions and demands of our society, a dynamic one that is committed to upholding the values of peace, security, democracy, freedom and human development that inspired the Helsinki Final Act.

To address this challenge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has the invaluable support of the Ministries of Defence, Interior, Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, Education and the Environment, and their attached agencies. Equally ready to collaborate are the Congress and the Senate (with a significant role in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly), the Ombudsperson, the General Council of the Judiciary, the Regions and the Municipalities, the media, the Universities and Academic and Cultural Institutions, and, most especially, the rich network of NGOs and other institutions of our civil society that are the indicators of the vitality of Spain at this very beginning of the 21st century. This Chairmanship is, indeed, an undertaking that concerns and involves all the sectors and strata of Spanish society, and which we all will bring to fruition.
Priorities of the Spanish Chairmanship

Spain is aware that it is assuming the Chairmanship of an Organization with a long tradition, an important accumulated body of achievement and proven dynamism. Spain’s actions are taken within the continuity of ongoing projects.

1. Contributing to the goals of peace and security, and strengthening the OSCE’s capabilities as a forum for dialogue and cooperation. It is necessary to maintain a permanent openness to dialogue in order to transmit democratic values into the practice of international relations.

2. Contributing to ending the conflicts that remain active in our region, promoting détente and understanding, and making full use of the OSCE’s capacities for crisis prevention and management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Spanish chairmanship 2007
3. Paying special attention to the fight against terrorism, which is the scourge of our times, and against which only cooperation between States and respect for democratic values can offer guarantees of success.

4. Highlighting the importance of the environment, focusing on the problem of soil degradation and contamination, together with the need to make a rational, effective use of water resources.

5. In the human dimension, emphasising the plural nature of our society, from a standpoint of respect for diversity and the encouragement of participation, reinforcing the fight against intolerance, discrimination, corruption and trafficking in human beings. Also, strengthening the transparency of democratic processes and an effective rule of law.
The OSCE and the future: an instrument for peace and stability

The OSCE originated during the Cold War, in the early 1970s, when the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. After two years of meetings in Helsinki and Geneva, the CSCE reached an agreement on what was termed the Helsinki Final Act, signed on 1 August 1975. This document included a series of important commitments concerning political and military issues, the economy, the environment and human rights. All of these became essential elements of the “Helsinki Process”, and ten essential principles (the “Decalogue”) were established to govern the relations between States and their populations and among States.

Until 1990, the CSCE functioned on the basis of meetings and conferences that expanded the commitments of the participating States, with their implementation being revised periodically. However, with the end of the Cold War, the Paris Summit held in November set
the CSCE on a new course. In the “Paris Charter for a New Europe”, the CSCE was called upon to play a significant part in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to the new challenges of the post-Cold War period. This led to its acquiring permanent institutions and operational capabilities.

As part of the process of institutionalization, at the Budapest Summit of Heads of State and of Government held in December 1994 the decision was taken to change its name to that of the OSCE.

With 56 Participating States from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe constitutes the largest regional security organization in the world. All its members enjoy equal status and its decisions are taken by consensus and are politically, though not legally, binding.

The OSCE is an instrument whose function is mainly that of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. It currently has 19 missions or operations in the field in South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The OSCE has played an essential role since it was founded and it is intended to be an organization that is dynamic and oriented towards the 21st century. The world-wide presence of the Organization, from Vladivostok to Vancouver, together with its flexibility and global outlook, are essential factors for the role it is required to play in the 21st century.
From Vancouver to Vladivostock: the OSCE at the service of security

The Secretariat General is located in Vienna, and has been led by Marc Perrin de Brichambaut since 2005. The Conflict Prevention Centre and the office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities are part of the Secretariat.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which is responsible for the Human Dimension, is headed by Christian Strohal and has its headquarters in Warsaw.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, seeks to resolve ethnic conflicts that may threaten the peace and stability of Participating States. The High Commissioner’s Office is located in The Hague.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, monitors developments in the media in the 56 Participating States. This Office constitutes an early warning system of violations of the freedom of expression, and promotes the fulfilment of the OSCE’s undertakings with respect to freedom of the press.

The Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Eva Biander, supports the development and implementation of anti-trafficking policies in OSCE Participating States.
The OSCE Chairman-in-Office has the following three Personal Representatives to promote tolerance: Anastasia Crickley, the Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, and who is also responsible for questions of intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions; Gert Weisskirchen, the Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism; and Ömür Orhun, Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Its 320 members promote interparliamentary dialogue, which is an essential aspect of the systematic effort to address the challenges of the democratic process within the OSCE’s area of activity.

The OSCE Ministerial Council meets once a year and is the main decision-taking and governing body. At its sessions, the Foreign Ministers of the 56 Participating States review and evaluate the OSCE’s activities.

The Permanent Council is the ordinary decision-taking body of the Organization and meets weekly in Vienna to discuss ongoing issues in the OSCE area and to adopt the necessary decisions.
OSCE structures and institutions

**Summit**
Periodic meeting of Heads of State and of Government of OSCE Participating States.

**Ministerial Council**
Annual meeting of Foreign Ministers of OSCE Participating States (except in years when a Summit is held).

**Economic Forum**
Regular, annual high-level meeting of political directors.

**Permanent Council**
Permanent body responsible for consultations and decision-making in the political sphere.
(Weekly meeting in Vienna)

**Forum for Security Co-operation**
Permanent body responsible for arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.
(Weekly meeting in Vienna)

**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**
Copenhagen

**Other OSCE related bodies**

**Court of Conciliation and Arbitration**
Geneva

**Joint consultative group**
Responsible for promoting the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.
(Meets regularly in Vienna)

**Open Skies Consultative Commission**
Responsible for promoting the implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies.
(Meets regularly in Vienna)
Chairman-in-Office
Spain
Troika
Belgium, Spain and Finland

Secretariat-General Vienna
OSCE Vienna Secretariat Prague Office

High Commissioner on National Minorities
The Hague

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Vienna

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Warsaw

OSCE Missions and other Field Operations

High-Level Planning Group
Planning an OSCE peacekeeping force in Nagorno-Karabakh.

OSCE Assistance in Implementation of Bilateral Agreements
OSCE Representatives to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners and to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners.

- OSCE Missions: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro
- OSCE Offices: Baku, Yerevan, Minsk.
1. Belgium
2. The Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Luxembourg
5. France
6. The United Kingdom
7. Norway
8. Sweden
9. Denmark
10. Switzerland
11. Ireland
12. Poland
13. The Czech Republic
14. Austria
15. Italy
16. Latvia
17. Lithuania
18. Slovakia
19. Hungary
20. Slovenia
21. Spain
22. Portugal
23. Iceland
24. Finland
25. Estonia
26. Belarus
27. Ukraine
28. Moldova
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Work for the OSCE
Every year, the OSCE offers six-month contracts, renewable for maximum periods of 4 to 7 years, depending on the characteristics of the position. This personnel policy enables it to ensure the correct representation of all the Participating States. The vacant situations can be consulted at the following Web site: www.osce.org/employment/

How to work for the OSCE
Candidacies for OSCE positions should be submitted directly online, via the OSCE Web site, by filling in the corresponding form and sending it within the deadline established for the vacancy in question. Once the application has been made, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation will assess the suitability of the candidate and decide whether he/she will be nominated by Spain. The remainder of the selection process is coordinated by the OSCE from the Vienna Secretariat and by its Missions in the field. For more information, contact: osce.destacados@mae.es
The political and military dimension

The OSCE has a broad approach to the political and military dimension of security, with a range of commitments by the Participating States and mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution. The organization also seeks to reinforce military security by promoting greater openness, transparency and cooperation. Arms control and non-proliferation, border management, the fight against terrorism, military reform, police activity and conflict prevention are key areas within this dimension. In this context, it is essential to promote the OSCE’s capacities regarding conflict resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The fight against terrorism will constitute one of the OSCE’s priorities for the 21st century.
The economic and environmental dimension

Activities within the economic and environmental dimension include the follow-up of their evolution in the Participating States, to warn them of any threat of conflict and assist them in setting up economic and environmental policies and other related initiatives that promote cooperation and security. Economic prosperity and the maintenance and restoration of a sound ecological balance in the air, water and soil constitute the main goals in this dimension. In particular, water management and the fight against soil degradation play a significant role in this field. The Spanish Chairmanship will pay particular attention to this issue since in 2008 Spain will host an International Expo on Water Management in Zaragoza.
The commitments undertaken by the OSCE Participating States in the sphere of the human dimension seek to ensure full respect for human rights and for the fundamental freedoms, to guarantee the prevalence of the rule of law, to foster democratic principles by setting up, reinforcing and protecting democratic institutions. Central issues in this dimension are also the fight against drug trafficking, education, election assistance, gender equality, media freedom, minority rights, tolerance and non-discrimination.
Integrating differences in plural societies

Combating intolerance, promoting dialogue and integrating differences in plural societies constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity for the OSCE’s work in the 21st century. The Spanish Chairmanship intends to work actively in this field, taking as a starting point the achievements of the Conference on Anti-Semitism and other Forms of Intolerance, held in Córdoba on 8 and 9 June 2005.

The main outcome of this Conference was the Córdoba Declaration, which, among other elements, unreservedly condemns racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and Christians, as well as harassment and incitement to hate crimes. The Declaration rejects the identification of terrorism with any religion, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race. Moreover, it highlights the crucial role of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human
Rights, of the three Permanent Representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship, as well as of the Participating States, of National Parliaments and of civil society in addressing intolerance and discrimination.

During its Chairmanship, Spain wishes to continue advancing the current dialogue between the OSCE and the Alliance of Civilizations (www.mae.es/es/Home/alianza_civilizaciones.htm). In addition, the December 2005 Ministerial Council decided to support the Alliance of Civilizations. In line with this, the OSCE expressed its readiness to cooperate in implementing the recommendations of the action plan arising from the report submitted by the High-Level Group to the United Nations Secretary-General in November 2006. The OSCE can play a decisive role in key areas of the activity of the Alliance of Civilizations, such as education, youth, immigration and the media.
OSCE activities in the field

The organization employs around 3,000 people, in 18 missions and field operations located in South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They work in the field to facilitate political processes, prevent or resolve conflicts, and promote civil society. The OSCE missions and field operations implement specific projects in cooperation with the national authorities and civil society in the spheres of human rights, the rule of law, economic development, the environment, media freedom, border management and police training.

→ Southeastern Europe
OSCE Presence in Albania
OSCE Mission to Bosnia & Herzegovina
OSCE Mission to Croatia
OSCE Mission to Kosovo
OSCE Mission to Montenegro
OSCE Mission to Serbia
OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje

→ Eastern Europe
OSCE Office in Minsk
OSCE Mission to Moldova
OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

→ The Caucasus
OSCE Office in Baku
OSCE Mission to Georgia
Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference
OSCE Office in Yerevan

→ Central Asia
OSCE Centre in Almaty
OSCE Centre in Ashgabat
OSCE Centre in Bishkek
OSCE Centre in Dushanbe
OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan
My experience

I joined the diplomatic service at the time of the CSCE in the 60s, when the organization was striving to make itself known. There was great uncertainty, but many considered that the initiative to create it was decisive to break down the barriers from World War II which were still present, especially in Central Europe. In addition, all of us who experienced that period cherished the hope that other accomplishments would be possible for the citizens of Europe once the reasons for distrust disappeared.

I was involved in the preparatory work for the CSCE in Geneva. I attended the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 and continued to participate in successive meetings in Belgrade, Madrid, Stockholm and Vienna. I witnessed the efforts made to display, through the CSCE, a new image of Spain, which in those years was beginning a transition process that radically transformed it. My career enabled me, on various occasions, to work in relation with the CSCE, and I took part in several of its meetings, until it became a permanent Organization in Budapest in 1995.

For a young diplomat there cannot be a better school than that essentially political forum, which was still pervaded by the spirit born from the East-West conflict, and in which the necessary quest for consensus powerfully captured the imagination. I have never forgotten the lengthy negotiations to draw up the Final Act, working side by side with major professionals in the field of consensus. Nor the political magnificence of the political work done in Helsinki in 1975, when the major statesmen of the day – Ford, Kissinger, Brezhnev, Schmidt, Giscard, Wilson – met at what was, to that date, the most significant summit in History.

The CSCE was decisive in breaking down the curtains and walls of misunderstanding that were still keeping Europeans apart. It was also essential for the reunification of Europe and also of Germany. In this respect, it is one of the great diplomatic legacies of the 21st century, whose power of concord and reconciliation remains intact.

Today, with its institutionalization, the OSCE seeks to repeat last century’s accomplishment. I have once again been called to participate in this new moment for the organization, by heading one of the 20 Missions that, like great Embassies, seek the modernization of the countries of the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia which need to include in their political systems the culture of democracy on which Euro-Asian security and cooperation are founded. I trust that many Europeans, diplomats or other professionals, young or not so young, may feel attracted by this organization that, with its headquarters in Vienna, has institutions in various capitals and Missions throughout Balkan Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasian Europe and Central Asia. Working for democracy and human rights, for equality and plurality, for economic cooperation and the environment, is still a major cohesive factor for the citizens of our respective countries.

“The CSCE was decisive in breaking down the curtains and walls of misunderstanding that were keeping Europeans apart”

Jorge Fuentes
HEAD OF OSCE MISSION TO CROATIA
Election observation

The OSCE has a long tradition of election observation and this function is one of its most distinguishing features. This observation takes place in elections held in any of the organization’s Participating States.

This task is carried out by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which in the past decade observed over 150 election processes. The observation process is based on the commitments on elections contained in the 1990 Copenhagen document. The ODIHR deploys observers in the field, who monitor all the stages of the electoral process in line with a methodology generally based on transparency and professionalism. The Web site www.osce.org/odihr-elections offers information on participating in election observation missions.
My experience

When the need arose to create a European security and defence identity there I was to work from the WEU, mainly with the EU and NATO. In order to contribute to the resolution of the conflicts in the Balkans, I co-operated closely with the OSCE and the UN. From the European Union Council, I worked to give impetus and to the further the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. Currently, I am working together with other persons building a new OSCE capable of facing up to the realities of the 21st Century. In this context, I have focused mainly on its relations with the EU, NATO and the Alliance of Civilisations.

I carry out my task at the Secretariat, with the rotating Presidency, and I work with the 56 States that participate in the OSCE, advising them and providing the necessary support in the field of external co-operation. From the Secretariat at Vienna, I hold frequent contact and meetings with these organisations, ensuring a fluid relation between the EU and the NATO Secretariats, as well as with the European Commission. This allows us to channel all types of actions in three dimensions: the human, the economic and the environmental, as well as, of course, the political- military one.

Likewise, in Exterior Co-operation we work, on a daily basis, to further dialogue and co-operation between the Mediterranean and Asian partners, with the UN, with the Council of Europe and other International, regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as with institutions, initiatives, NGOs and academic circles. Within my attributions, I work to ensure the maximum coherence and equilibrium within the framework of an efficient multilateralism. I contribute to making the OSCE more and better known by all.

To sum up, we work so that the OSCE may fill in gaps and build bridges, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, endowing with expression the millions and millions of citizens it represents. Aware that the OSCE and the principles and values it enshrines make it specially endowed for the challenges of globalisation, I attempt to underline that the OSCE is already an Alliance of Civilisations on the go.

“We work so that the OSCE may fill in gaps and build bridges”