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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  
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR JORGE FUENTES  
HEAD OF OSCE OFFICE IN ZAGREB  
704<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
6 MARCH 2008**

Canada welcomes Ambassador Jorge Fuentes back to the Permanent Council. We are grateful for the detailed report of his office's activities. Field work and technical assistance are a large part of the OSCE's added value and this report provides another vivid illustration of this fact.

We thank Ambassador Fuentes for having orchestrated a seemingly smooth transition from the Mission to Croatia to the Office in Zagreb. This transition is indeed a testimony to the progress accomplished by Croatia on many fronts, and particularly in the consolidation of its democratic institutions and of the rule of law.

There remains important work to be done in the implementation of the Sarajevo Declaration Process as relates to refugee return and housing, as well as on the ongoing prosecution of war crimes. Both of these issues must be addressed in such a way as to contribute to healing the wounds of the 90s and to help the countries of the region move forward. The Office rightly now concentrates its work in these two areas.

As the report states, political will and cooperation with neighbouring countries are very important in order to make progress on these issues. Croatia has shown its ability and willingness to assert regional leadership and we encourage it to do so on these issues as well.

We wish Ambassador Fuentes and his team all the best as they carry out their important mandate.