

ENGLISH only



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to EU President, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 19, 2010

It is a pleasure for us to welcome you to the Permanent Council, Foreign Minister Moratinos. Spain is an important partner of the United States, and we work together constructively on a wide range of issues.

Mr. Minister, the United States looks forward to continuing our cooperation with the European Union under your capable Presidency. Together, we should take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the Corfu Process to modernize and strengthen the OSCE and to develop concrete ways to more effectively confront the many challenges facing all our countries.

As we proceed with our Corfu Process dialogue on the future of European security, we will work with our EU partners and others to ensure that we maintain and strengthen key parts of the security and cooperation architecture that have been developed within the OSCE and that have proven their value.

As in the past, we will work with the European Union to strengthen all aspects of the human dimension. In line with the spirit of Helsinki, the European Union and the United States, together with other OSCE participating States, must resolutely support the core values of this organization – democracy, human rights, rule of law and protection of individual liberties. These commitments serve as the foundation for peace and security in the OSCE region.

In other areas, including the protracted conflicts, transnational threats, energy security and Afghanistan, the United States looks forward to working with Spain and the European Union in the coming months to build on an already existing solid foundation.

Given the significant developments within the European Union in regards to implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, it will be particularly important for the OSCE and the European Union to coordinate closely on their current and prospective activities.

Mr. Minister, we wish you and your mission here all the best in the coming months. Please be assured of the full and continued support of the United States as you move forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.