

### **OSCE Chairman expressed condolences after two Norwegian military experts killed in Tajikistan**

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed on 22 June his deep condolences to the families of two Norwegian military officers who died after being hit by a vehicle in Tajikistan.

Minister Moratinos expressed his support and admiration for the men's work in Tajikistan.

### **OSCE Chairman deeply concerned about 'worrying new development' in Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone**

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed on 2 July his deep concern over the continuing increase in tension in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and, in particular, the casualties caused to both Georgian and Ossetian police officers by sniper fire.

Minister Moratinos stated that the OSCE had previously appealed to the sides to find a solution to these problems.

### **OSCE Chairman urged Ukrainian leaders to ensure transparency in September elections**

Kyiv. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, urged Ukrainian leaders on 5 July to ensure that a sense of political maturity and responsibility would prevail in the run-up to the parliamentary elections.

In meetings with President Viktor Yushchenko, Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office said Ukraine could not afford further delay of constitutional and economic reforms.

Minister Moratinos also delivered a speech at the opening of the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, saying that the Assembly played an important role in strengthening democracy and transparency across the 56-country OSCE area.

### **OSCE Chairman said he supported closing OSCE Mission to Croatia by the end of the year**

Dubrovnik. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, said on 8 July he favoured closing the OSCE Mission to Croatia by the end of 2007.

In talks with Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and Foreign Minister Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office reviewed progress made towards completing the Mission's purpose.

Minister Moratinos, speaking at the 2007 Croatia Summit on "Europe's New South," called on presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from South Eastern Europe and other OSCE regions present at the meeting to support his initiative.

### **OSCE Chairman called for renewed efforts to address CFE Treaty concerns**

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, said on 14 July he had taken note, with concern, of Russia's decision to suspend its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and called on all the States Parties to the Treaty to renew their efforts to address the underlying concerns swiftly and earnestly.

### **OSCE Chairman said elections in Nagorno-Karabakh should not have any impact on the peaceful settlement of the conflict**

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, said on 20 July that efforts to resolve the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh should not be hindered by the recent so-called "presidential elections" in the area.

The Chairman-in-Office reiterated his support to the efforts of Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group to facilitate a peaceful settlement in the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict.

### **OSCE Chairman welcomed election of Albanian president**

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, extended his best wishes to President-elect Bamir Topi for his term in office and offered appreciation to outgoing President Alfred Moisiu for his contribution to the strengthening of democracy in Albania.

## **OSCE Special Envoy assessed conflict resolution process during visit to Georgia**

Tbilisi. The Special Envoy of OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Josep Borrell Fontelles, said on 26 July OSCE wished to see full implementation of commitments to a peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, and welcomed Georgia's readiness to participate in the effective functioning of existing negotiation mechanisms.

During the three-day visit, the Special Envoy met the Chairperson of the Parliament Nino Burjanadze, Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli, Foreign Minister Gela Bezhuashvili, and State Minister on Conflict Resolution Issues Davit Bakradze.

He also visited Tskhinvali, where he met with Eduard Kokoity and the Commander of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces.

## **OSCE Chairman appointed personal representative for mission to Georgia on missile incident**

Vienna. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, appointed on 17 August Miomir Zuzul, former Croatian Foreign Minister, to be his personal representative in a mission to Georgia on the missile incident that took place on 6 August.

On 8 August, Minister Moratinos encouraged parties involved in the missile incident in Georgia to continue to show restraint in this matter and stressed that a co-operative approach should facilitate a thorough investigation into the facts. The Chairman also offered OSCE assistance within the framework of its mandate.