

STATEMENT BY ICELAND IN RESPONSE TO H.E. Mr. VALDAS
ADAMKUS, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

As delivered to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 8, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is a great honour to welcome H.E. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE Permanent Council. Iceland and Lithuania have had excellent and close relations ever since Iceland was the first country to recognize Lithuania's regained independence.

I would like to thank President Adamkus for his Address outlining inter alia Lithuania's approach to Europe and in particular to the ESCE. Needless to say Iceland very much shares the views expressed by president Adamkus, including the idea of building a "Europe whole and free" and a Europe that is at peace with itself. This is indeed what the OSCE is all about and makes it unique. Iceland has always stressed the adherence to the OSCE commitments, norms and values and here again we concur with what, President Adamkus, has stated in his Address.

Mr. Chairman,

Iceland welcomes Lithuania's bid to the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, which Iceland fully supports. At the same time Iceland expresses the hope that the candidacies to the Chairmanships in 2009 and the consecutive years after 2010, which have not yet been decided upon, can be agreed upon amongst ourselves.

I would like to thank H.E. President Valdas Adamkus for coming to the Permanent Council and would like to wish him success as well as Lithuania in preparing for the OSCE Chairmanship.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.