

OSCE Chairman met Sergei Lavrov

Madrid. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, met on 18 April his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov. They tackled issues concerning Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE, bilateral aspects and an array of international issues.

Minister Moratinos analysed together with his counterpart the aims and priorities of the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE and underlined the need to strengthen OSCE capabilities as a forum for dialogue and to favour three balanced dimensions. They also aimed at reaffirming the full validity of OSCE original principles and commitments, as well as the essential place which Russia occupies in the Organization.

OSCE Chairman concerned about Ukraine developments

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed concern on 19 April following the disruption of constitutional court hearings in Kyiv by demonstrators.

Minister Moratinos said that the current political crisis should be solved relying on democratic mechanisms and political dialogue, and that he would continue to follow developments closely.

He also repeated an offer of OSCE-led mediation, saying the Organization is ready to provide support whenever the parties deem it appropriate.

OSCE Chairman called for calm and dialogue in Kyrgyzstan

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, called on 21 April for calm in Kyrgyzstan and urged the country's politicians to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve the political impasse.

Minister Moratinos said that the OSCE encouraged all sides to seek common ground for reforms in the country, and that solution to this situation can only come through political dialogue and negotiations based on democratic principles.

OSCE Chairman expressed condolences to Russia on death of Boris Yeltsin

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed on 23 April his condolences to Russia after the death of former President Boris Yeltsin was announced in Moscow. Minister Moratinos stated that Boris Yeltsin was instrumental in accelerating Russia's transition to democratic and free-market principles.

OSCE Chairman's envoy went to Moldova for meetings on Transdniestria problem

MADRID. Ambassador Jose Pons, the Spanish Foreign Ministry's Director General for Europe and North America, travelled on 23 April to Moldova to discuss the Transdniestrian problem.

Ambassador's schedule included meetings in Chisinau and Tiraspol with members of the Moldovan Government and with the Transdniestrian negotiator. He also maintained contacts with other mediators and observers involved in the negotiating process.

OSCE Chairman said the organization is an appropriate forum for missile defence discussions

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, said on 28 April that the Organization is an appropriate forum to discuss Washington's missile defence proposals.

Minister Moratinos also highlighted the enduring relevance of arms control agreements (reached in the 1990s as major pillars of European confidence building and security) and underlined that we must be able to find a common ground in the issue of missile defence which in no way is directed against Russia.

OSCE-Council of Europe discuss closer co-operation at Madrid meeting

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, San Marino Foreign Minister Fiorenzo Stolfi, and the Secretaries General of the two organizations, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and Terry Davis discussed closer co-operation between the organizations at a meeting in Madrid on 3 May.

Participants at the meeting welcomed the progress made in the four priority areas of co-operation, which include combating terrorism, and human trafficking, protecting the rights of national minorities, and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. They also agreed to develop joint activities in the field of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

OSCE Chairman concerned about events in Tallinn and Moscow

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed his concern on 3 May over the events that followed the removal of the WWII memorial of the "Bronze Soldier" in Tallinn and protests in front of the Estonian Embassy in Moscow. He also expressed regret that a person was killed during the riots in Tallinn.