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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

PERMANENT DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
INTERVENTION IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT
OF THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO KOSOVO
698TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
31 JANUARY 2008

Canada thanks Ambassador Guldimann for his thorough written report of the activities of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, and his thoughtful presentation today.

Having heard the Ambassador's detailed account, it is clear to this delegation that the Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE's largest field presence, has been doing very useful work for the benefit of all residents of Kosovo.   We noted in particular the excellent work accomplished to support the electoral process last November, which was recognized by international observers as being in-line with international standards. The report also vividly highlights the valuable role the Mission plays in fostering a human rights and rule of law culture at all levels, and in protecting the rights of non-Albanian communities.

It is clear to us that there is a lot more that the Mission can continue to do in these fields, no matter how events unfold in the coming weeks and months. This is why we were glad that the Ministerial Council decided to extend the mandate of the Mission, and we again regret it was impossible to agree to anything beyond a renewal month by month.   Our wish is to see the OSCE remain engaged in Kosovo until its mandate is completely fulfilled.

When considering the extension of the mission, Canada therefore hopes that participating States will consider the interests of all the people of Kosovo, who have benefited significantly from the OSCE's activities and continue to be in great need of the Organisation's engagement as part of a concerted international effort.

We wish Ambassador Guldimann energy and patience in dealing with the challenges that will face him and his staff in the coming months.