



FSC.DEL/122/08

9 July 2008

ENGLISH only

**REPRESENTACION PERMANENTE
DE ESPAÑA ANTE LA OSCE
VIENA**

**552nd Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
(Wednesday, 9 July 2008)**

Security Dialogue

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN IN RESPONSE TO THE
PRESENTATION ON HOMELAND DEFENSE AND CIVIL SUPPORT BY THE
HONORABLE PAUL MCHALE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
HOMELAND DEFENSE, US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Madame Chairperson,

Let me warmly thank Mr. McHale for his presentation on Homeland Defense and Civil Support. This is actually an issue to which Spain attaches great importance. As you, Madame Chairperson, recalled in your report on the FSC activities presented at the last Annual Security Review Conference, this Forum held on Special meeting on civil-military emergency preparedness on 26 September 2007. The meeting was aimed at promoting information sharing and updates of existing policies, programmes and mechanisms implemented both by participating States and by international organizations with responsibilities in the area of civil and/or military co-operation in emergency situations. In this context, I very much appreciate the information shared by Honorable Paul McHale in his presentation on his responsibilities for the supervision of all homeland defense activities of the Department of Defense in the United States.

It is also good news for the Spanish Delegation to see that the present Chairmanship is taking care of this topic, as stated in the survey of suggestions and recommendations included in the Consolidated Summary issued by the former Danish FSC Chairmanship on 15 October 2007, since the simple information sharing with respect to existing national standards on CMEP was included as one concrete mechanism to be used in the Forum for Security Co-operation. At the same time, it is a good opportunity for extending dialogue on CMEP with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation who are attending at the Plenary Meeting today, as agreed in the FSC Decision N° 16/07, adopted on 21 November last year.

Madame Chairperson,

Let me convey to you the following question to our speaker. Among other activities, Mr. McHale has experience as lecturer at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he served as a member of the Board of Visitors, and as member of the Board of Advisors at the Naval War College, Newport, on Rhode Island. During the Special meeting on CMEP held on 26 September, the issue of maritime security was brought up. In particular, some views on the

potential for the OSCE to contribute to emergency planning, referring particularly to any opportunities there might be in the field of maritime security, was raised during the discussions. I would like to ask our guest on his views concerning this area of possible co-operation, in particular with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Thank you very much for your attention.