

**STATEMENT**  
**IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE CIO OF THE OSCE,**  
**H.E. KARL DE GUCHT**  
**delivered by Ambassador Vesko Garčević,**  
**Permanent Representative of Serbia and Montenegro,**  
**at the 587th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 12 January 2006**

Mr. Chairman

On behalf of the delegation of Serbia and Montenegro I am delighted to join others in warmly welcoming our new Chairman-in-Office, His Excellency Karl de Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, to the Permanent Council for the first time and thank him for his address on the priorities of the Belgium Chair for the forthcoming year. We wish him every success, looking forward to cooperating closely with him and the Belgium delegation throughout 2006.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the outgoing Slovenian chairmanship and in particular to the Ambassador Lenarcic, and his able team, for tremendous personal efforts and dedicated work to further promote the authority and respectability of the OSCE in a year that inspired us by core principles and values endorsed in Helsinki Final Act and in Paris Charter.

Mr. Chairman

We are aware that next twelve months will be marked by the continuation of our intensive discussion on the OSCE reform and its future face in the newly emerging international setting. Our delegation sincerely hopes that jointly we shall manage to find a suitable way to implement fully our commitments adopted recently at the Ljubljana Ministerial. In this context, we reiterate the importance of the "road map" that, in our opinion, can serve as a basis for a conducive discussion and we hope will provide efficient framework for us to deliver concrete results for the next Ministerial. In this sense we support the balance of the OSCE's three dimensions with due respect for strengthening the OSCE economic dimension but without weakening the OSCE position in the areas when it has obvious comparative advantage such as human dimension and a number of aspects in politico-military dimension.

At the same time, this delegation pledges its full support to the priorities given by the current Chairman aimed at promotion of the rule of law, reform of judiciary, improving penal systems and access to justice, and especially defining a global and coherent approach to combating international crime. OSCE has played a very important and productive role in these areas in the course of reform processes in South Eastern Europe and we believe it has a room for further engagement on this course not only in our region but among all the participating states.

Mr. Chairman

I would like especially to focus on the actual process related to Kosovo, as Mr. Chairman mentioned it as one of the Belgium Chairmanship's priorities. The given fragile security situation in the Province burdened with mistrust and a lack of respect for human rights gives us ground to expect the OSCE long-term engagement in Kosovo in the fields of the OSCE's recognized expertise - in the field of institution - and democracy-building, rule of law, but above all in the field of the protection of human rights. In that sense, we encourage the OMIK's extensive and robust field presence. We also look forward to continued cooperation and consultations between the OSCE and other international organizations and actors engaged in Kosovo in this respect.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, allow me to welcome Spain as a new OSCE Troika member.

Mr. Minister,

We wish You and Your dedicated team in Vienna a successful year and all good luck in 2006.