



SPANISH CHAIRMANSHIP 2007

Moratinos: “Project Europe is still unfinished”

Clarion call to rise to complex security challenges

The OSCE is still the forum for raising key questions and issues concerning the future of Europe, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos said in his first address to the Permanent Council in Vienna as Chairman-in-Office. “We are aware that times are not easy, but for this very reason, our Organization is so necessary,” he said. He pledged to strengthen the OSCE’s role as a forum for dialogue and co-operation, along with other priorities of the Chairmanship: the fight against terrorism, protecting the environment and encouraging participation in pluralistic societies. The following are excerpts from his remarks on 11 January.

On board a Spanish Government plane, the Chairman-in-Office shares impressions of his visit to Belgrade and Pristina with journalists.

Photo:
OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

I am addressing this Permanent Council for the first time as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, and do so with mixed feelings: In the first place, there is a feeling of satisfaction, because there is no other organization like the OSCE on the world scene. It is neither a military alliance nor an economic union, but an organization that brings together, on a permanent basis, 56 countries sharing a common view of a Europe that

is secure, united, free and at peace with itself. The OSCE came into being in Helsinki and was consolidated in Paris, Moscow, Budapest and Istanbul. Today we continue turning this vision into reality by means of our everyday interaction.

The changes that have taken place over the past 32 years throughout the OSCE area, within our States and within our societies, have attained historic dimensions. We should be proud of the extraordinary advances that have been achieved.

But, on the other hand, our pride should be temperate and prudent, out of an elementary sense of responsibility. We should judiciously analyze our current difficulties and face future challenges directly and clearly.

We have to work hand in hand if we wish future generations to regard us as we would like to be seen. If our children cannot be proud of us tomorrow, then we shall have failed in our collective endeavour, for not having attained our shared vision.

...Our current situation is not an easy one. The participating States and the OSCE itself are going through a complicated stage:

It is a fact that the wars in the Balkans appear to have ended, but there remains, to a very considerable extent, the arduous task of re-establishing regional stability and of creating “virtuous circles” to sustain the States in the area. We have made great prog-

ress in resolving the disputes that beset the former Yugoslavia, but much still has to be done to reinforce coexistence, democratic institutions and the rule of law in some parts of the region.

The question of Kosovo will occupy centre stage during 2007. As Chairman-in-Office, I wish to stress our commitment to maintaining the presence of the OSCE on the ground. We must carry on supporting the efforts being made there to construct a society that is structured, multi-ethnic and tolerant, one that is committed to democratic institutions and to respect for human rights. Spain believes it is essential that the OSCE's added value should be properly recognized — its extensive presence on the ground and its irreplaceable support for the establishment of the rule of law — and that negotiators should find an appropriate legal framework for its future presence.

Many States in the OSCE area are going through a difficult phase in their democratic transition, and the process can by no means be considered complete. We should not be surprised by this: Democracy cannot be imposed from outside, nor does it appear overnight. Development of the institution of democracy takes time and requires patience and perseverance, as well as a favourable international setting. We must sustain, with greater determination than ever, our undertaking to uphold and accompany these processes in order to ensure their peaceful development.

Furthermore, it is quite clear that the OSCE will continue playing a role in relation to the long-running conflicts within its area. Our participation must be aimed at healing the breach between those involved in these disputes, bringing together communities and peoples whose destinies have been joined, and enhancing relations between societies on both shores of the Dniester, in Georgia and in Nagorno-Karabakh. In each of these disputes, walls have been built up, dividing peoples; these walls must be torn down. To achieve a sustainable solution, we must intervene *now* to provide a solid basis for progress.

MUTUAL TRUST

I am profoundly concerned that relations between some participating States continue to be strained. Neither the spirit nor the letter of the OSCE commitments is enhanced when relations between participating States are characterized by sanctions, pressure or aggressive rhetoric. We must regain mutual trust, and for this purpose, let us appeal to the moderation and goodwill of the parties and to the firm resolve of all of us participating in the OSCE.

Sometimes the consensus on values and their practical implementation appears to be weakening. As participating States, we should be capable of doing more towards fulfilling our undertakings and putting them into practice in an effective manner. The issue is a simple one: The extreme complexity of the challenges facing us in these tur-



José Ángel López Jorrín is Ambassador-at-Large for the Co-ordination of the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE. He represents the Chairmanship and assists it in carrying out its responsibilities. Most recently, Ambassador López Jorrín was Adviser in the Directorate General for Europe and North America of the Spanish Foreign Ministry (2004). He served as Spain's Ambassador to Bulgaria (2001) and to Bosnia and Herzegovina (1997). Earlier, he headed the Foreign Ministry department that is responsible for the OSCE and the Council of Europe (1995).



Josep Borrell Fontelles is the Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office. His appointment came shortly after he concluded his term as President of the European Parliament (July 2004-January 2007). Mr. Borrell Fontelles was a member of the Regional Parliament for Madrid (1979-1982) and a member of the Congress of Deputies (1996-2004). He also served as Secretary of State for Finance and as Minister for Public Works, Transport, the Environment and Telecommunications.



OSCE/MICHAEL EVSTAFIEV

Airborne over the Balkans: Foreign Minister Moratinos goes over his notes with an aide.

bulent times means that our promises will be hollow if they fail to achieve results in practice, and it is these very promises that constitute the foundations on which the OSCE rests.

The difficulties facing us do not reside merely in the relations among States. Within each nation, our societies are ever more diverse and are threatened by intolerance, discrimination and even hatred. Spain will seek to make intensive use of the institutions, mechanisms and activities available to the OSCE in order to respond as effectively as possible to the need to reconcile the diversity of our pluralistic societies in a democratic way, one that requires the participation of all concerned. We need to have a strategy of reaching out.

Nowadays, the threats and challenges to our security are asymmetric, complex, dynamic and cross-border in nature. In order to address them, the OSCE must continue its efforts to create a steadier dialogue and stronger co-operation among its participating States and with the OSCE's partner organizations, such as the EU, NATO, the UN and the Council of Europe, without overlooking other institutions and initiatives both within and outside of the OSCE area.

The OSCE does not exist in isolation within its immediate surroundings. We cannot guarantee our own security while ignoring the monumental transformations that are taking place among our neighbours in the Mediterranean region, in sub-Saharan Africa, in the Middle East and in East Asia. In today's interconnected world, the security of the OSCE must sink its roots not only within its own space but also further

afield, and especially towards the south and the east. This is why our relations with our Mediterranean and Asian partners are extremely valuable. Their dialogue with the OSCE provides a security outlook that goes beyond that of our own region, and is one that we believe should be intensified and reinforced.

Finally, the situation within our organization itself is not an easy one. ...The "zero growth" of the budget imposes upon us all the responsibility to choose, both among priorities and among the activities in which we decide to participate. We must not shrink from choosing what seems necessary for the effectiveness of the Organization.

What does all this mean?

Above all, it means that "Project Europe" is still unfinished. At the outset, the OSCE was intended to make Europe a space of peace, security, freedom and co-operation, overcoming all ideological confrontations. We still have to continue working towards this goal.

We must reconsider the promises of the 1990s. Within the OSCE area, in the short term, it is quite possible that the favourable circumstances that saw them emerge may not recur. The creation of a secure Europe, living in peace, continues to be a long and arduous process, requiring sustained effort and a permanent debate on its values and on how they should be applied. The key to success lies in maintaining our momentum and advancing in the right direction, taking into account our ultimate objective, which continues to be the one originally formulated.

New challenges to our security constitute a clarion call for our actions to be based upon shared values, and for us to strengthen and enhance the series of undertakings we have jointly assumed.

All these factors mean that the OSCE is as necessary today as it was before. We are aware that times are not easy, but it is for this very reason that our Organization is so necessary.

As we move forward in unison to address common problems, we must bear in mind the vision that inspired the creation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe — the CSCE. Our States and societies need a forum in which our differences can be shared rather than aggravated, in which dialogue is enhanced rather than neglected, and in which we act in response to common necessities. The OSCE constitutes such a forum.

OSCE's engagement in Belgrade and Pristina reaffirmed

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos underscored the Organization's continued assistance in democracy-building in the area during his visit to Belgrade and Pristina on 26 and 27 February.

"I have encouraged the Serbian leaders to be constructively involved in the final stage of consultations on Kosovo's future status," said Chairman-in-Office Moratinos after meeting President Boris Tadić, Acting Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, and Acting Foreign Minister Vuk Drašković.

"To preserve the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo, all sides involved, including Belgrade, Pristina and the Kosovo Serbs, need to work out a compromise," he added. [See page 8 for subsequent developments.]

Congratulating President Tadić on the well-conducted parliamentary elections in late January, the Chairman-in-Office said it was important to speed up the process of forming a new government to resume crucial reforms. He stressed that the OSCE and its Mission to Serbia would continue helping the country fulfil its international commitments.

"A new reform-minded government, based on a wide coalition of pro-European political parties, will help move things forward. The elections have confirmed that the people of Serbia are overwhelmingly in favour of further democratic reforms and

European integration," he said.

He also urged the new government to take concrete actions and fully co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

"It is in Europe's interest to see a consolidated and democratic Serbia," he said. "In the past seven years, since the fall of Milošević, the country has made considerable progress in democracy-building and the adoption of European standards. The future of Serbia is undoubtedly in Europe."

In Pristina, the Chairman-in-Office met President Fatmir Sejdiu, members of the negotiating team in the consultations on Kosovo's status, representatives of the Kosovo Serbian

and other non-Albanian communities, and United Nations officials.

"The OSCE is committed to remaining engaged in Kosovo in the long term, regardless of the content and timing of the final status settlement,"

said Foreign Minister Moratinos.

"Our Mission in Kosovo

can have a key role to play in monitoring and supporting the status implementation, with a focus on decentralization, community rights, and cultural and religious heritage."

He called attention to the potential benefits offered to all communities by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's draft proposal.

"It is vital that at this crucial moment all people living in Kosovo show political unity and patience. I also call on all communities to abstain from any forms of violence. Any unilateral actions should also be avoided," he added.



OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Ángel Moratinos in Belgrade, with Serbian President Boris Tadić (left photo), and in Pristina, with President Fatmir Sejdiu.



Kosovo-wide debates draw people closer to local issues



Although the status process has dominated the political landscape in Kosovo for more than a year now, the work of the OSCE Mission in the interest of all communities has maintained its momentum.

Nurturing the growth of civil society at the grass roots is just one of the many crucial areas of action that have been making considerable progress through such OSCE initiatives as the Kosovo-wide "Bridges of Friendship".

Taking advantage of the OSCE

Mission's widespread presence on the ground, debates are being held throughout Kosovo to encourage residents to make their needs and concerns known to their municipal leaders. These events, in turn, help prepare municipalities to assume expanded responsibilities, as foreseen in the proposal for Kosovo's status settlement.

By the time the project ends in April, close to 300 debates will have taken place in all the municipalities of Kosovo.

The results of the public discussions — along with feedback from about 23,000 questionnaires focusing on the interaction between municipalities and residents — will form the basis for recommendations to be handed to municipal leaders in May.

A spirited debate on issues of fairness, transparency and accountability in local governance took place among residents of Besi/Besinja on 22 February.

Photos: OMIK/Hasan Sopa