

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

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
IN RESPONSE TO THE COORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, MR. GORAN SVILANOVIĆ
754TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
12 MARCH 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

Canada warmly welcomes the Coordinator, Mr. Goran Svilanović, on the occasion of his first presentation before the Permanent Council and we thank him for presenting his priorities and Action Plan for the OSCE Second Dimension and the role of his Office in 2009.

To start with, we appreciate the Coordinator's commitment to further streamline activities, establish clear priorities and to focus on those thematic areas and issues where the OSCE can bring a real added value and a practical positive change. We can only fully stand behind this view and believe this should be a *modus operandi* for the whole OSCE as well. We also believe it is essential to avoid duplication with the work of other international organisations, and to find ways to best allocate our limited resources, especially in the current international economic environment.

We certainly welcome your identifying, as priorities, the security aspects of the global financial crisis and energy security. We also take good note that the security implications of climate change remains on the agenda this year. These three themes are of high interest for Canada and for many other participating States of the OSCE.

In particular, since the global financial and economic crisis affects us all, we believe that the OSCE's early warning and conflict prevention role, could help identify within our in the OSCE region areas of tensions and fragilities resulting from this crisis. We should reflect on how the OSCE may contribute to crisis recovery by working on these areas of tensions and fragilities

On energy security, we see the link between energy and security and stability, but we remain sceptical about proposals that the OSCE should look into issues such as energy efficiency, energy savings and renewable sources of energy, because we believe that these issues can best be dealt with by other international forums, such as the International Energy Agency, that are better equipped with expertise.

We are most grateful for and appreciate the hard work accomplished by the Office on Environment and Security. Helping participating States to address environmental challenges and fostering stability through environmental cooperation, which often require transboundary or regional approaches, are concrete ways in which the OSCE contributes to its *raison d'être* and value added in the security field.

Madam Chairperson,

Canada is still concerned by the number of priorities and thematic areas that are high on the agenda of the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities. This is far from ideal. The Office and participating States must work together to achieve a greater focus and streamlining of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental activities. In some areas activities should be dropped in favour of re-allocating more resources to other areas where the OSCE's contribution and the added are more evident and tangible.

In this connection, the 2010 Programme Outline exercise will be a pivotal opportunity for narrowing the priorities and themes on the agenda and for focusing the work of the Second Dimension on areas where the OSCE can make a difference. Should this approach be achievable, Canada would view favourably the reallocation of resources to the OCEEA to enhance its activities.

Looking ahead, Canada believes that the OSCE Economic and Environmental activities and the work of the Office of the Coordinator should focus on four key core business lines and thematic areas:

- The global economic and financial crisis, its recovery, and supporting a facilitating economic and business environment. Work in this area would focus on: a) policies and the legal and regulatory framework to ensure predictable, transparent and stable economic and financial systems and respect for international law; b) to support investment and competitiveness and c) efficient borders and customs management.
- Good governance, especially fighting against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- Environmental cooperation, notably supporting participating States in addressing environmental challenges and in preventing and resolving transboundary environmental issues.
- Energy Security, notably a predictable, transparent and stable energy supply.

Thank you – Merci – Hvala!