

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

FINAL

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA
HER EXCELLENCY DALIA GRYBAUSKAITÉ
858 SPECIAL PLENARY PERMANENT COUNCIL
13 APRIL 2011**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Canada joins others in warmly welcoming Her Excellency Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, to the Permanent Council for the first time, and wishes to thank her for her comprehensive address on the occasion of Lithuania's OSCE Chairmanship.

As we already noted to Foreign Minister Azubalis in January at the outset of his year as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Canada broadly supports Lithuania's roadmap and agenda for the OSCE in 2011. In particular, we share Lithuania's firm commitment to advancing democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, notably freedom of the media, and the goal of fostering greater understanding, tolerance and gender equality throughout the OSCE region. Lithuania's commitment and engagement on fundamental values is also evident through your leadership as Chair of the Community of Democracies since 2009 and for your efforts to make the organization more effective, inclusive and results-oriented during your Presidency.

Canada appreciates Lithuania's leadership and commitment to progress our shared OSCE values and principles across all 3 Dimensions. In assuming the responsibilities as the OSCE Chair, Lithuania is demonstrating that its words match deeds.

We wish to thank Lithuania for its balanced, pragmatic and focussed approach thus far in helping OSCE participating States find solutions to some of the region's more pressing security challenges today including those concerning Partners for Cooperation, like Afghanistan and Tunisia, who are asking our assistance and who can benefit from our comprehensive security toolkit. We recognize Lithuania as a proactive facilitator and honest broker who finds pragmatic solutions and builds the compromises needed to advance comprehensive security and prosperity across our vast OSCE region - from Vancouver to Vladivostok - through our collective efforts in Vienna as we work together in shaping the agenda and deliverables for the Ministerial in Vilnius at year's end.

A key responsibility and achievement of the Lithuania Chairmanship this year will be in helping participating States select the next OSCE Secretary General - a position requiring strong leadership and a vision for the Organization, as well as sound management and the political outreach needed to realize our Organization's aspirations and work. In these challenging times, a strong Secretary General is particularly crucial for the OSCE's future work and role on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security.

Mr Chairperson,

At the OSCE Astana Summit, Canada highlighted its main priorities for the OSCE's immediate future:

- Preserving and enhancing the OSCE's Human Dimension work;
- Addressing transnational threats and security challenges in and from Afghanistan;
- Modernizing and strengthening our region's Conventional Arms Control Regimes and CSBMs;
- Making the OSCE an even more effective tool for conflict prevention and crisis management.

The Lithuanian OSCE Chair can count on Canada's continued active support in deliving shared priorities and goals for enhancing regional security, together with our OSCE partners. Congratulations to the highly capable Lithuanian team in Vienna and in Vilnius for completing a successful first 100 days in office as OSCE Chair.

Thank you/Merci!