

Delegation of Andorra

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ANDORRA AT THE
955th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 June 2013

**In response to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia,
His Excellency Mr. Edward Nalbandian**

Andorra joins the delegations who have spoken before us in extending a warm welcome to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, His Excellency Mr. Edward Nalbandian, at today's meeting of the Permanent Council. We thank him for his statement.

We congratulate Armenia on the start of its Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, a responsibility that had been taken on by my country over the previous six months for the first time since our accession to the Council on 10 November 1994.

We note with satisfaction that the activities of Armenia's Chairmanship represent a continuation of the common efforts of previous Chairmanships and are an appropriate continuation of the joint priorities established by Andorra, Armenia and Austria. We consider this focus highly appropriate in order to guarantee tangible results in the medium and long term, taking into account the three pillars that underpin the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Andorra will continue to work closely with Armenia to consolidate the progress made during the Andorran Chairmanship, implement the priorities that have been stated and make progress in reforming the Council of Europe.

In this context, we hope that the results that have been achieved to date regarding education on democratic citizenship and human rights as a vehicle to encourage tolerance and non-discrimination will prove useful in developing the established priority of promoting democratic societies.

In particular, we wholeheartedly believe that educating young people and raising their awareness of democratic citizenship provides them with the tools they require in order to know, exercise and defend their rights and responsibilities within society, and allows them to appreciate and respect diversity. It also brings them together around a core of common values that are vital to ensure societies that are culturally diverse, democratic and sustainable.

Furthermore, I call on those present to join the campaign that we launched online this February, and which is still ongoing, to encourage people to read the European Convention on Human Rights. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness within civil society of the human rights and fundamental freedoms included in the Convention and, at the same time, to publicize the work of the Council of Europe. The campaign is available on the Council's website.

As we have previously stated, Andorra supports co-ordinated and coherent co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe based on joint strategies and programme activities in areas of common interest in order to create synergies and avoid duplication.

In conclusion, we wish you every success, Minister, at the helm of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Allow me to state once again that you can depend on Andorra's support to accomplish the proposed programme of work.