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At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement in response to H.E. Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain, delivered to 790th (Special) Meeting of the Permanent Council on 19 January 2010 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.



Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO H.E. MIGUEL ANGEL MORATINOS,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF SPAIN**

**As delivered by Ambassador Zoran Dabik to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, January 19, 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me on this occasion to warmly welcome our distinguished guest, H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Foreign Minister of Spain, whose country holds the actual EU rotating Presidency.

On behalf of the Macedonian Delegation I would like to express to Mr. Moratinos our pleasure and honor for addressing us today on very important issues and particularly on the EU priorities and EU-OSCE cooperation under the Spanish Presidency.

We are confident that H.E. Moratinos' valuable diplomatic experience, among other in the capacity of former OSCE Chairman in 2007, will contribute in obtaining a new impetus in today's EU-OSCE relations and cooperation.

Your Excellency, I would like to emphasize that Macedonia's top priority from the very first days of its independence are the Euro-Atlantic and Euro integration. In this respect, our expectations from the Spanish Presidency are very high, and in compliance with the European values.

The Republic of Macedonia has made considerable efforts on the EU front, achieving last year Schengen Visa Liberalisation and positive European Commission's Progress Report with the recommendation to start the Accession Negotiation Talks. We all know why the Council's decision last December was not in line with the Commission's recommendation. I can assure you that my country will put every effort to reach a mutually acceptable solution. Each single step forward, as you pointed out today, is commendable.

Finally, allow me to wish you Mr. Moratinos a lot of success in your future activities.

Mr. Chairmen,
I thank you for your attention