

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (1 to 12 January)

Spain takes up the OSCE Chairmanship

MADRID. On 2 January the new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, sent a New year letter to the OSCE's 56 participating States. He pledged to focus on consolidating and deepening democratic principles and values during Spain's chairmanship of the world's largest regional security organization. Spain took over the 12-month OSCE Chairmanship from Belgium on 1 January, with Minister Moratinos succeeding Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht as Chairman-in-Office.

OSCE Chairman meets UN Special Envoy for Kosovo, says Organization keen to stay

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, met on 9 January 2007 the United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, and told him the Organization intended to remain active in Kosovo after its final status is approved. The two discussed the present and future of Kosovo based on the view that the stability of the region is an essential factor to maintain security in the Balkans and Europe.

OSCE Chairman calls on Russia and Belarus to settle energy dispute quickly

MADRID. On 9 January 2007 the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Miguel Angel Moratinos, expressed concern about the lack of agreement between the Russian Federation and Belarus on the conditions for the supply and transit of oil and made a call on authorities of both countries, to settle energy dispute quickly

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos speaks at the Permanent Council

VIENNA. At his opening speech at Permanent Council, on 11 January 2007 the Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Affairs Miguel Angel Moratinos, set out priorities for his Chairmanship. The fight against terrorism, protecting the environment, encouraging participation in pluralistic societies and strengthening the OSCE's role as a forum for dialogue and co-operation are among the Organization's priorities for 2007.

The Chairman-in-Office also announced that he would be assisted in his role by Josep Borrell, who is to be appointed Special Envoy of Chairman-in-Office.

Chairman-in-Office meets heads of OSCE missions and Directors of the Organization's institutions and other bodies

VIENNA. The Chairman-in-Office, Miguel Angel Moratinos met on 11 January all heads of missions, as well as the Directors of OSCE institutions and other bodies. The Chairman-in-Office focused on regional issues and more intensely on field presence's work in the OSCE region. He stated that "our organization is still very much involved in the process of

strengthening regional stability". The officials shared their views with the Chairman-in-Office on the priorities for the year 2007.

OSCE Chairman meets NGOs, says promoting diversity crucial

VIENNA, On 11 January 2007 the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, told non-governmental organizations that promoting diversity and participation in pluralistic societies will be a priority of his chairmanship.

He also announced an OSCE conference devoted to fighting discrimination against Muslims to be held in the Spanish city of Cordoba later this year.

OSCE Chairman welcomes Albanian election deal, praises President's role

MADRID. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, welcomed on 13 January 2007 the agreement of the political parties in Albania on a compromise that opens the way for local government elections to be held within the recognized legal deadline.

The Chairman-in-Office noted he had sent a personal envoy, the Director General for Europe and North America, Ambassador Jose Pons, to assist in the search for a compromise after a request for assistance from the political parties in Albania.