



CASA DE S.M. EL REY

RELACIONES CON LOS MEDIOS DE COMUNICACIÓN

**EMBARGO: Hasta el inicio del discurso
- Sólo es válido el discurso pronunciado -**

REMARKS BY H.M. THE KING OF SPAIN AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW OSCE BUILDING
Vienna, 21 November 2007

Herr Bundespräsident,
Ministers,
Secretary General of the OSCE,
Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be in Vienna again.

I would like to thank most sincerely His Excellency, the Federal President, for his warm welcome and for this happy occasion in which we are, jointly inaugurating, the new building of the OSCE during the Spanish Chairmanship of the Organization.

These splendid new premises will house the OSCE Secretariat and the offices of its Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Therefore, this is a day for expressing the gratitude we owe to the Republic of Austria, for hosting the Organization's headquarters, and to its Federal President, for supporting the project that we open today.

I also extend my gratitude to the OSCE Secretariat, without whose hard work and commitment this project would not have been possible.

Once again, Vienna displays its generosity, remarkable conditions and traditional setting that have led it to become an excellent venue for international Conferences and for the headquarters of many international bodies.

Past and future are both present here, in one of the most prominent political and cultural cities of Europe. We will always admire the wonders of its historical and artistic heritage.

The Palfy Palace, inspired by this heritage, will clearly outline OSCE's solid identity, while ensuring the best efficiency of the Organization's work.

These new premises will open a new space for commitment and responsibility, designed to meet the increasing demands of the Organization and the renewed importance of its missions.

The essence of OSCE is symbolized by this Palace: a joint programme for security and cooperation, working for peace, prosperity and democracy all over our Continent.

Both Austria and Spain took part in the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, that opened the way for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which later, in 1994, became the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

On that occasion we jointly undertook a far-reaching project, aimed to promote Security and Cooperation within a Europe that was still divided in two blocks.

At the time, it was not easy to foresee that this confrontation would disappear a few years later, and that it would be possible to work together, to create better conditions for security and to establish instruments for cooperation within the Euro-Asian area.

Today, thanks to OSCE, fifty-six countries work together on equal footing, helping our Continent to become an increasingly safer area.

An area defined by our close cooperation, aiming at peace, progress and the well-being of our peoples.

To sum up, today's opening reminds us how far we have travelled together, and the great values for which our Organization stands for.

In a week, the Fifteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, will take place in Madrid under Spanish Chairmanship.

We wish the Organization and its Participating States the best success in this important gathering.

Ever since the signing of the Final Act in Helsinki, Spain has endeavoured to endorse and promote the great values and principles that shape the core of our Organization.

As Chairman in Office, Spain has made every possible effort to reinforce the commitments and to extend the achievements carried out by this Organization during the last three decades.

Please, allow me, once again, to give my warmest thanks to His Excellency the Federal President, for his hospitality and kind words, and to congratulate all those who have worked so hard in contributing to the inauguration of this building.

At this solemn ceremony, let me once more express my whole-hearted support to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and reiterate my best wishes of success in performing its work in this magnificent new building.

Thank you very much.