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**STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDE GIORDAN,  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF MONACO,  
AT THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Brussels, 4 and 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to express my gratitude to the Belgian Chairmanship, which has welcomed us to Brussels, for the quality of its work and its hospitality.

I should also like to welcome Montenegro, which is participating in a Ministerial Council meeting for the first time.

I already had the opportunity to say last year at the same Council that my country feels at ease in the international organizations displaying a spirit of equality and respect for sovereignty, which is especially the case here.

It is in this spirit that the Principality of Monaco hopes that Kazakhstan is given a clear signal that the country will be given the opportunity to assume the Chairmanship of our Organization in the near future and to demonstrate its commitment to our common values.

We must also adopt today the draft decisions which, as a follow-up to our previous meeting in Ljubljana, will improve the way our Organization works and the substance of its activities.

The OSCE should leave this meeting with more finely tuned tools and methods that are constantly adapted to carry out the tasks we entrust it with.

In that respect, we believe that the draft decision on strengthening the OSCE Secretariat, the institutions and the field missions is a step in the right direction and leaves the door open for other improvements that might be proposed by the Secretary General.

We also approve the terms of the draft decision regarding the improvement of the consultative process. In particular, the three-committee structure that has been proposed would enable States like Monaco to play a greater role in our common work by focusing its participation on its preferred areas. The environment and efforts to combat trafficking in human beings are at the top of our list.

I should therefore like to confirm here the commitments undertaken by our Head of State during his working visit to Vienna on 18 September 2006.

The Principality will support a number of OSCE initiatives concerned with combating trafficking in human beings, especially when it involves the protection of children. It is therefore with great interest that we welcome the draft decision on combating sexual exploitation of children.

My country will also carefully study the OSCE programmes concerning environmental protection. In this area, the recently established Albert II Foundation will work in concert with the Government of Monaco, giving priority to three main areas: climate change and its consequences, preservation of biodiversity and access to drinking water.

At another level, we can see how the fight against international organized crime and terrorism features more prominently on our agenda each day. No country, regardless of its size, can claim to be protected from these scourges and all run the risk of being used by criminal networks that employ both the simplest and the most sophisticated means of financing and communication.

I can assure you that the Principality will remain vigilant and shall not be a weak link in the international judicial and police co-operation system that is being steadily developed. We are totally committed to this and our authorities are more than willing to respond to any requests for assistance that may be made.

I should like to wish the future Spanish Chairmanship every success.

Thank you for your attention.