

Press Release

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Looking forward to a strong Spanish chairmanship of the Council of Europe

Statement by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 19.11.2008 - Respect for human rights and, in that light, the fight against terrorism, campaigning against racism and intolerance, protection of minorities and minority languages and intercultural dialogue were amongst the issues raised by the Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis in discussions with Minister Moratinos in Madrid today. The meeting focused on the priorities for the Spanish chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers which will begin on 27 November for a 6-month period.

"Minister Moratinos has recently chaired successfully the OSCE. I am confident that this experience will be an asset for the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and Spain will be a strong driving force for increasing the efficiency of the Court and consolidating the abolition of the death penalty in Europe. I am personally looking forward to a close co-operation with Minister Moratinos during the next 6 months", said Terry Davis.

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