

# Press Release

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## Spain presents its priorities for its chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers over the next six months

Strasbourg, 27.11.2008 – Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain, was at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg today to present his country's priorities for the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers over the coming six months.

**1. The European Court of Human Rights:** as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Court has become a victim of its own success. The Spanish chairmanship has two objectives:

- to find alternative arrangements and solutions that will make it possible to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Court, pending the entry into force of Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- to ensure that the Court's judgments are effectively implemented by member states.

### 2. Fundamental values:

- Spain will attach particular importance here to the work of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), which is to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2009, and that of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
- It will concentrate on such issues as combating the death penalty, gender discrimination, protection of the rights of people with disabilities, gender violence and human trafficking.
- The Spanish chairmanship considers terrorism to be a threat to democratic stability and the rule of law. It will organise the first meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism in the spring.

### 3. Towards an inclusive and cohesive Europe:

In this context, Spain will promote activities concerning:

- the phenomenon of migration and measures to combat trafficking in migrants;
- the management of multi-ethnic and culturally diverse societies;
- children in the justice system, health for and with children, as part of the 2009-2011 Strategy of "building a Europe for and with children", recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers;
- the situation of Roma and Travellers.

### 4. External relations

Spain considers that the establishment of a united Europe requires close co-ordination of all the organisations involved. To this end, it will:

- foster improvements in, and the intensification of, co-operation with the European Union, in particular with the French and Czech presidencies;
- continue to co-operate with the OSCE, in particular with the Finnish and Greek chairmanships;
- closely monitor the implementation of the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 November.

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**A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.**

Today Spain took over the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers from Sweden. Its term of office will end on 12 May 2009, at a Committee of Ministers session in Madrid scheduled to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe's inception (5 May 1949).

[Programme of the Spanish chairmanship](#)

[The Spanish chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers](#)

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