

The Open Skies regime must rest on the principle of comprehensive and full equality.

Equality in the acquisition of and access to information, which must not be used to the detriment of any of the sides.

Equality as regards the area of application of the regime, covering the states' military activities not only on their national territories but also outside.

Equality as regards flight quotas, the use of airplanes and monitoring and data processing equipment.

We would like to hope that other participants, too, proceed from the need for equality of rights and a balance of interest.

Evidently, the Open Skies agreement should be open for subsequently incorporating into it provisions on Open Seas and Open Space and, of course, it should provide for the establishment of a coordinating body to consider all matters concerning compliance with the agreement and the resolution of unclear situations and disputes.

Progress towards greater glasnost, openness and global confidence-building would effectively contribute to constructing a comprehensive system of international security. It is precisely in this context that we support the measures being proposed.

I am confident that they will lay the groundwork for a really unique system of confidence which, in organic unity with the priceless experience amassed in this area before, will further enhance Europe's standing as the creative laboratory of openness, transparency, disarmament and joint search for ways towards a peaceful human community.

We would like to believe that this experience will be a lodestar for mankind, that it will be supported by the United Nations and by all continents and regions as an example and model for building a global confidence system.

Our warm thanks go to the government and people of Canada, who are giving such a hospitable welcome in Ottawa to this important Conference working in behalf of mankind.