

performed without interfering with the normal function of the National Safety Flight Regulations.

In addition, the participating states should be protected against possible commercial use, without their consent, of the information and data acquired by the observing state.

And, conversely, the parties might have access to all data and information concerning their territory which have been obtained as a result of flight under the Open Skies program.

At the same time, since it may happen that the information collected by an observing flight may not dispel all suspicions, it would fit the logic of the Open Skies system, as a confidence-building measure, to include in the agreement a procedure whereby the observing state and the observed state would have valid incentives to sort out by dialogue all the aspects in question before making public statements or undertaking any unilateral measures.

As to the scope of the system, what is being called Open Skies should not be kept closed between military alliances. In fact, the system should be open for participation by all European countries, if and when they wish to join.

The Romanian delegation is confident that such a course of action would facilitate the negotiating process and foster a climate of co-operation that is required for a successful conclusion of our endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Celac. I am going to turn next to the Minister for Portugal, but I am sure that he would allow me to welcome to our meeting our colleague Gianni De Michelis, who has just flown in through open skies from Italy. Welcome.

May I now call upon the Foreign Minister of Portugal, Joao De Deus Pinheiro.

HIS EXCELLENCY JOAO DE DEUS PINHEIRO,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PORTUGAL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me, first, to express my gratitude to the Canadian authorities for the warm hospitality bestowed upon us on this occasion.

The Canadian government's decision to host an Open Skies