
Bulgarian Chairmanship

499th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 11 March 2004

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Petrov

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences to Spain in connection with the explosions at a railway station in Madrid on 11 March 2004.

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Media situation in Ukraine*: United States of America (PC.DEL/160/04), Ireland-European Union (PC.DEL/169/04), Canada, Ukraine
- (b) *Religious freedom and trial of persons detained after the events of October 2003 in Azerbaijan*: United States of America (PC.DEL/159/04), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania, in alignment) (PC.DEL/167/04), Azerbaijan
- (c) *Human rights situation in Turkmenistan*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/170/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/161/04), Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Turkmenistan
- (d) *Repeal of the death penalty sentence against Mr. Kurbonov in Tajikistan*: Tajikistan, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/171/04), Switzerland
- (e) *Minority situation in Latvia*: Russian Federation, Latvia (PC.DEL/175/04)

- (f) *Consensus rule in the OSCE*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/154/04), Belarus, Canada, Armenia (PC.DEL/173/04)

Agenda item 2: OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro (PC.FR/4/04/Rev.1 Restr.), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/166/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/163/04), Switzerland, Russian Federation, Canada, Moldova (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/155/04), Serbia and Montenegro (PC.DEL/165/04), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 2004 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE (not adopted)

Chairperson

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE OSCE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS ON TOLERANCE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 599 (PC.DEC/599), the text of which is appended to this Journal, on the dates of the OSCE Conference in Brussels on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE OSCE MEETING IN PARIS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACIST, XENOPHOBIC AND ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA ON THE INTERNET AND HATE CRIMES

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 600 (PC.DEC/600), the text of which is appended to this Journal, on the dates of the OSCE Meeting in Paris on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes.

Agenda item 6: APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

The Chairperson announced that the silence procedure regarding the decision on the recommendation to appoint the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media had not been broken (see PC.DEC/598, the text of which is appended to this journal).

Chairperson, Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/168/04), United States of America, Switzerland, Belarus, Russian Federation, Hungary, Albania, Armenia (PC.DEL/174/04), France, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Germany, Turkmenistan, Spain, Netherlands

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Announcement of the distribution of the written report on the activities of the Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/22/04): Chairperson

Agenda item 8: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Visit of the Secretary General to Croatia from 8 to 10 March 2004:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/62/04 Restr.)
- (b) *OSCE/UNECE Joint High-level Workshop, held in Geneva on 8 March 2004:* Secretary General
- (c) *United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee conference, to be held in Vienna on 11 and 12 March 2004:* Secretary General
- (d) *Activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek:* Secretary General
- (e) *OSCE Project Database:* Secretary General

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Release of the Annual Country Reports for 2003 on Human Rights Practices:* United States of America
- (b) *Presidential elections in Slovakia, to be held on 3 April 2004:* Slovakia (PC.DEL/162/04 Restr.)
- (c) *Conference on contribution of new democracies to stability in Europe, to be held in Bratislava in March 2004:* Slovakia (PC.DEL/176/04)
- (d) *First domestic trial of war crimes indictees in Serbia and Montenegro:* Serbia and Montenegro
- (e) *Presidential elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to be held on 14 April 2004:* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 18 March 2004, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal.