
108th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 108, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 160

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 158, the Permanent Council further decides to establish an OSCE presence in Albania in co-operation with the Albanian authorities and to provide the co-ordinating framework within which other international organizations can play their part in their respective areas of competence, in support of a coherent international strategy, and in facilitating improvements in the protection of human rights and basic elements of civil society.

1. In co-operation with other international organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE will provide advice and assistance, in particular in the following fields:

- Democratization, the media and human rights;
- Election preparation and monitoring.

Furthermore, the OSCE will explore other possibilities, including monitoring the collection of weapons.

The Chairman-in-Office will immediately prepare steps to establish the OSCE presence as soon as possible, and will report back promptly to the Permanent Council, which will take any necessary decisions without delay.

The overall co-ordination of the efforts of the international community will be ensured by Dr. Vranitzky as Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office. He will report to the Permanent Council on progress achieved.

The Permanent Council welcomes the initiative of the European Union to dispatch without delay an advance team with OSCE participation to prepare the ground for the establishment of an advisory mission within this framework.

The time-frame for the OSCE presence will be reviewed by the Permanent Council after the holding of elections.

2. The Permanent Council

- Has taken note of the official appeal made by the Albanian authorities to a group of countries for assistance in resolving the security situation in Albania;
- Appreciates that certain participating States are willing to meet this official request;

- Expects any assistance to be given in accordance with the United Nations Charter and OSCE principles and in accordance with appropriate action by the United Nations Security Council;
- Expects to be informed on any further steps to be taken in this context; and
- Decides to remain seized of this matter at all stages.

PC.DEC/160
27 March 1997
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the Russian Federation:

“While considering the question of the multinational protection force in Albania, the Russian side assumes that any operation envisaging the use of an element of compulsion or force must be sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.”