
Chairmanship: Greece**778th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 29 October 2009

Opened: 9.40 a.m.

Closed: 1.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Iceland to the OSCE, Ambassador Stefan Skjaldarson.

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: VIDEO ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE OSCE, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GREECE, H.E. GEORGE PAPANDREOU

Chairperson, Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/163/09/Corr.1)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

Chairperson, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/9/09 OSCE+), Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/845/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/850/09), Ukraine (PC.DEL/873/09 OSCE+), Serbia, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/860/09 OSCE+), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/843/09 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/856/09), Canada, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/870/09 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: **REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Chairperson, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR.GAL/73/09 OSCE+), Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/844/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/851/09), Holy See (PC.DEL/865/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/862/09 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/869/09 OSCE+), Belarus, Norway (PC.DEL/857/09), Canada, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/871/09 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: **REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM
OF THE MEDIA**

Chairperson, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM.GAL/4/09/Rev.1 OSCE+), Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/848/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/854/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/863/09 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/872/09 OSCE+), Italy

Agenda item 5: **REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES**

- (a) *Death penalty in Belarus:* Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/849/09), Belarus
- (b) *Death penalty in the United States of America:* Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/847/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/858/09)
- (c) *Award of the 2009 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament to the organization Memorial:* Sweden-European Union (with the

candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/846/09)

- (d) *Murder of human rights defender Mr. M. Aushev*: United States of America (PC.DEL/852/09), Russian Federation, Chairperson, Sweden

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

None

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the Secretary General: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/179/09 OSCE+)

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Ambassadors' retreat to be held in Krems, Austria, on 30 and 31 October 2009*: Chairperson
- (b) *Selection process for the appointment of the Representative on Freedom of the Media*: Chairperson
- (c) *Ambassadorial visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from 21 to 25 October 2009*: Finland
- (d) *United States of America, Department of State, Annual Report on International Religious Freedom, 2009*: United States of America (PC.DEL/853/09)
- (e) *"New Challenges – Better Capabilities", security conference held in Bratislava on 21 and 22 October 2009*: Slovakia (PC.DEL/861/09)
- (f) *Results of the video contest, "Taking Part – Civil Society in Action", organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall*: Germany (PC.DEL/855/09)
- (g) *Matters of protocol*: Russian Federation, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 November 2009, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal