



671st Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 798
THEME, FORMAT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES
FOR THE SIXTEENTH ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

28 and 29 January 2008 and 19 to 21 May 2008

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the Helsinki Document 1992, paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2 December 2003 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum,

Decides that,

1. The theme of the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”.
2. The Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be held over a period of five days, broken down as follows, and without setting a precedent for future Economic and Environmental Forums:
 - 2.1 On 28 and 29 January 2008 in Vienna;
 - 2.2 From 19 to 21 May 2008 in Prague.
3. A special session will be devoted to challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries during the Prague segment of the Economic and Environmental Forum.
4. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental

dimension. The review, to be integrated in the Prague segment of the Economic and Environmental Forum, will address relevant OSCE commitments and in particular commitments related to governance and transport issues, with a special focus on environmental governance and transport security, including relevant international conventions and international co-operation initiatives.

5. Discussions of the Forum should benefit from input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two preparatory conferences outside of Vienna, and deliberations in various international organizations.

6. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

7. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation of representatives from the business and scientific communities as well as other relevant actors of civil society in their delegations would be welcome.

8. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions.

9. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Adriatic and Ionic Initiative; Arctic Council; Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM); Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Caspian Environment Programme; Central Asian Co-operation Organization; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Council of Europe; Danube Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS); Economic Co-operation Organization; Energy Charter Treaty; Eurasian Economic Community; European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX); European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Conference of Ministers of Transport; European Investment Bank; Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation; Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA; Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Labour Organization; International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine; International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; International Sava River Basin Commission; International Maritime Organisation; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; International Road Transport Union; International Road Federation; International Union of Railways; Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail; Interstate Council of the Central Asian Economic Union; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Organization for Co-operation of Railways; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; Southeast European Cooperative Initiative; South-East European Cooperation Process; South Eastern Europe Transport Observatory; Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA); World Bank Group; World Customs Organization; World Trade Organization; and other relevant organizations.

10. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum.

11. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum.

12. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum.

13. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both segments of the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Committee of the Permanent Council will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.