
Norwegian Chairmanship**235th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 17 June 1999

Opened: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 6.20 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. K. Eide
Mr. Ø. Hovdkinn

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

Agenda item 1: PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
THE RED CROSS

President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (PC.DEL/304/99),
Switzerland, Germany-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus,
Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic,
Slovenia and the Czech Republic) (PC.DEL/306/99), Liechtenstein,
United States of America (PC.DEL/317/99), Russian Federation, Chairman

Agenda item 2: OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, United States of America
(PC.DEL/319/99), Moldova (PC.DEL/303/99), Germany-European Union
(also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,
Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and the Czech Republic)
(PC.DEL/309/99), Switzerland, Russian Federation, Romania, Uzbekistan
(also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine), Chairman

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO ESTONIA

Chairman

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 297 (PC.DEC/297),
the text of which is appended to this Journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Mission to Estonia.

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. Chairman,

At a time when our Organization is facing the daunting challenge to come to grips with the redefinition of its role in the evolving peace process in Kosovo while it must simultaneously cope with multiple deadlines for the substantive preparation of the forthcoming Summit in Istanbul, it may seem less than obvious to request attention to a matter that will concern the agenda of the OSCE only in a more distant future.

About halfway through the term of the present Chair, I am instructed to address an issue that should not be left to drift; the continuity of the Chairmanship of our Organization.

At this junction, the Netherlands submits its availability to assume the responsibilities that go with the function of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in the year 2003.

The contours of the tasks that our Organization will then be facing can only be painted with the strokes of the widest brush in our painter's box.

The Netherlands is, however, prepared to announce its candidature at this early stage, inspired by the sense of commitment and responsibility that must have brought the previous Chairmen-in-Office to come forward well ahead of time with their interest in the pivotal function of our Organization.

I recognize that this is not the time to distract with details. We intend to revert to the parameters of our candidacy in due course. But I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to have this statement attached to the Journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/235
17 June 1999
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA

Mr. Chairman,

One could never imagine how similar could be the thinking and planning, including respective time-frame, among OSCE capitals and delegations as is today the case between the Dutch and the Bulgarian delegations.

Today I would like to inform the distinguished Ambassadors in the Permanent Council that Bulgaria is seriously considering applying for the Chairmanship of the OSCE in the year 2003, guided by the principle of rotation and by expectations for an increasing role of the OSCE in South-Eastern Europe.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you have taken note of this statement with the same interest as of the statement of the distinguished Ambassador of the Netherlands.