



Chairmanship: Lithuania

885th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 27 October 2011

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Norkus
Mr. A. Krivas

Prior to taking up the agenda, on behalf of the Permanent Council, the Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Armenia to the OSCE, Ambassador Arman Kirakossian.

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(ODIHR) ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR.GAL/62/11 OSCE+), Poland-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1012/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/1001/11), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1016/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/1020/11 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1006/11), Canada, Holy See (PC.DEL/998/11), Turkey (PC.DEL/1010/11), Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Chairperson, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/170/11 OSCE+), Poland-European Union (with the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/996/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/1004/11), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1017/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/1021/11), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1007/11), Canada, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1015/11), Holy See (PC.DEL/999/11), Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Earthquake in the Van province of Turkey on 23 October 2011*: Chairperson, Poland-European Union (PC.DEL/997/11), United States of America, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1018/11), Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/1023/11), Norway (PC.DEL/994/11), Azerbaijan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/995/11 OSCE+), Armenia, Holy See (PC.DEL/1000/11), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1008/11), Uzbekistan, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Georgia, Turkey (PC.DEL/1011/11), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1003/11)
- (b) *Freedom of assembly in the United States of America and in member States of the European Union*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1002/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/1022/11 OSCE+), Belgium, Spain, Poland-European Union, Germany, Portugal
- (c) *Announcement by ETA of the cessation of its armed activity, made on 20 October 2011*: Spain (Annex), France
- (d) *Recent developments in the Mediterranean region*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1009/11), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- (e) *Human rights and fundamental freedoms in Belarus*: Canada, Belarus
- (f) *Recent flooding in Thailand*: Canada

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Chairing by Ambassador R. Norkus, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, of the 14th meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, held on 21 October 2011*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/212/11)

- (b) *Participation of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Protracted Conflicts, Ambassador G. Čekuolis, in the sixteenth meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held in Dvani, Georgia, on 21 October 2011: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/212/11)*
- (c) *Statement by the Chairperson-in-Office calling on Belarusian President not to sign into law new restrictions on freedom of assembly and association in Belarus (SEC.PR/409/11): Chairperson (CIO.GAL/212/11)*
- (d) *Participation of the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador R. Norkus, in the Max van der Stoel Award ceremony, held in The Hague on 24 October 2011: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/212/11)*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Secretary General*
- (b) *Discussions in the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance on the Unified Budget proposal for 2012: Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the document entitled Status of Documents proposed for adoption by the OSCE Ministerial Council in 2011: Chairperson*
- (b) *Flight information for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, to be held in Vilnius on 6 and 7 December 2011 (MC.INF/7/11): Chairperson*
- (c) *Drawing of lots to establish the order of statements for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, to be carried out on 3 November 2011 after the Permanent Council meeting (CIO.GAL/209/11 OSCE+): Chairperson*
- (d) *Reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council, to be held on 18 November 2011: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 3 November 2011, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/885
27 October 2011
Annex

ENGLISH
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885th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 885, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

As the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the OSCE, I am pleased to officially inform the Permanent Council that, on 20 October 2011, the terrorist organization Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) announced a definitive end to its terrorist activity. This is, of course, a very important event, and it has been recognized as such by Spanish society.

This general feeling on the part of the citizenry has been expressed by many institutions, both Spanish and foreign. His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, noted that what has happened is, above all, “a great victory for our rule of law, for the will and determination shown by democratic institutions, for the sacrifice and the dedicated and effective work of the law enforcement agencies, and finally, for our society as a whole.”

For his part, the Prime Minister, in an official statement, emphasized that the end of ETA terrorism is a triumph for the rule of law. This, he said, “was made possible also with the help of France and its authorities, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude, along with all the countries that have expressed their solidarity and support for us over the years.”

On this occasion, we recall the commitments embodied in the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism. We call upon all participating States to ensure that, on the basis of these commitments, we are able to cope with the challenge that this cruel and corrosive phenomenon, in all its manifestations, represents for the society of the twenty-first century.

Mr. Chairperson,

The legitimate satisfaction expressed by all sectors of Spanish democratic society and its institutions at having prevailed over ETA terrorism goes hand in hand with the remembrance of and respect for its victims and their suffering. We share in the moving tributes that have been offered to their memory and dignity.

There can be no doubt that acts of terrorism seriously impair the enjoyment of human rights, and so we reaffirm our resolve to prevent and combat them and thereby increase the security of our citizens, as set forth in Decision No. 618 on solidarity with victims of terrorism, adopted by the Permanent Council on 1 July 2004.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and distinguished delegates, for your attention.