
16th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 16, Point 5(a)

DECISION No. 35

The Permanent Council,

Taking note of the report of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for the Chechen Republic,

Reaffirming its support for the peaceful settlement of the crisis on the basis of OSCE principles, while respecting the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its Constitution,

Emphasizing the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire,

Recalling its decisions of 2 February and 29 March 1995,

Decides to establish an OSCE Assistance Group which, operating in conjunction with the Russian federal and local authorities, and in full conformity with the legislation of the Russian Federation, will perform the following tasks:

- promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the establishment of facts concerning their violation; help foster the development of democratic institutions and processes, including the restoration of the local organs of authority; assist in the preparation of possible new constitutional agreements and in the holding and monitoring of elections;
- facilitate the delivery to the region by international and non-governmental organizations of humanitarian aid for victims of the crisis, wherever they may be located;
- provide assistance to the authorities of the Russian Federation and to international organizations in ensuring the speediest possible return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in the crisis region;
- promote the peaceful resolution of the crisis and the stabilization of the situation in the Chechen Republic in conformity with the principle of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and in accordance with OSCE principles and pursue dialogue and negotiations, as appropriate, through participation in 'round tables', with a view to establishing a ceasefire and eliminating sources of tension;

- support the creation of mechanisms guaranteeing the rule of law, public safety and law and order.

In order to perform the above-mentioned tasks the OSCE Assistance Group must:

- enjoy, while taking due account of the personal safety of its members and accompanying persons, all possible freedom of movement on the territory of the Chechen Republic and also on the territory of neighbouring subjects of the Russian Federation, if so required for the performance of its tasks;
- establish appropriate forms of co-operation and contact with civilian and military representatives in the crisis region, and also with individual citizens and groups of citizens wishing to enter into contact with the Group and/or with its members;
- be provided with such material and technical support, including accommodation, transport and communications, as may be needed for maintaining the activities of the OSCE Assistance Group in the region.

Members of the OSCE Assistance Group will enjoy such privileges and immunities as are accorded, in accordance with the Decisions of the Rome Council Meeting (CSCE/4-C/Dec.2), to members of the OSCE missions established by competent OSCE bodies.

The Assistance Group is subordinate to the Chairman-in-Office, who will report regularly to the OSCE Permanent Council and inform the Government of the Russian Federation of the Group's activities.

The Assistance Group will initially be composed of six members. The number and composition of the Group's membership can be changed, as required, depending on how the situation on the ground develops. Decisions regarding the number and composition of the Group's membership will be taken by the Chairman-in-Office in consultation with the Russian Federation and within the limits of the budget line for the Assistance Group to be established in the OSCE unified budget.

The budget for the OSCE Assistance Group will be approved by the Permanent Council.