



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Tirana 2020**

MC.DEC/5/20
4 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 5/20
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2023**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that North Macedonia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2023.

MC.DEC/5/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Bulgaria:

“The Republic of Bulgaria would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2023:

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Bulgaria has joined the consensus on adopting this decision mindful of the stated, strong commitment of the Republic of North Macedonia to exercise the Chairmanship of the OSCE for the year 2023. We should expect that in this capacity the Republic of North Macedonia will truly engage in implementing the principles, values and the mandate of our Organization.

On this occasion we would like to reconfirm our position that we will use the new constitutional name ‘Republic of North Macedonia’ *erga omnes* and as the only name of the country in official documents requiring the consent of the Republic of Bulgaria. This position has been detailed in a Note Verbale No. 453 (7 May 2019) of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Nations in New York, copied to all UN Member States, issued in response to the official announcement on the change of the then constitutional name ‘Republic of Macedonia’.

In that context, we proceed with the understanding that whenever the term ‘North Macedonia’ is used in OSCE documents, it should be taken to refer only and exclusively to the State whose full constitutional name is the Republic of North Macedonia, and has no geographic meaning other than the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia.

We would like to use this opportunity to recall again the importance we attach to full, consistent and in good faith implementation of the spirit and the letter of the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations between our two States.

It is important to stress that by joining the consensus today Bulgaria provides its support to its neighbour and that is being done to no prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing bilateral talks including on this particular issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

We request this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.”

MC.DEC/5/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of North Macedonia:

“Mr. Chairperson,

With reference to the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria, the delegation of the Republic of North Macedonia would like to make the following interpretative statement.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the participating States for reaching consensus on the decision North Macedonia to assume the function of OSCE Chairmanship in 2023.

On our part, let me assure you of our firm determination to engage and actively co-operate with all the participating States in line with the principles and commitments of our Organization.

We are committed to principled and constructive approach in all three dimensions – politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimension, promoting peace and prosperity through dialogue and co-operation.

Furthermore, we believe that enhancing co-operation through dialogue build upon the Helsinki Final Act and continuing development of friendly relations is essential among the OSCE participating States.

On this note, I would like to state that based on the principle of equality and sovereign rights of States both names of my country the full – Republic of North Macedonia and the short – North Macedonia are equally valid and should be used in line with the established rules and practice of all international organizations, including the OSCE.

The full and the short name of my country are not and cannot be interpreted as a reference to any geographical region.

The Republic of North Macedonia and North Macedonia are the full and the short form of the name of a sovereign State as a political entity in the international relations.

We would also like to use this opportunity to recall the importance we attach to full, consistent and in good faith implementation of the spirit and the letter of the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations between our two States.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.”