

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE 2010  
UNIFIED BUDGET  
787<sup>TH</sup> (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
22 DECEMBER 2009**

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

Canada joins consensus on the OSCE 2010 Unified Budget. We are pleased that it is adopted before the end of the year and we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all those involved in making this a reality.

However, our sentiment on the outcome is similar to being outside on a cold but sunny winter day: the humid cold makes you shiver a little at the same time that the sun makes it a beautiful day.

The beautiful sunshine is represented by giving to Kazakhstan, our upcoming Chairmanship, a 2010 Budget adopted before January 1st, which is quite an exceptional situation considering the last few years. We are very happy for our Kazakh friends that they can put this achievement on their record at start 2010 on a good note.

The warmth of the sunshine is also felt, probably for all our delegations, through the relief of a reduced financial contribution which is much welcome by our foreign and finance ministries in these challenging economic times.

However, even with the sunshine, the winter cold is felt. Many of our staff will feel the impact of reduced Board and Lodging Allowances in places where cost of living is actually increasing. Unfortunately, blind application of flawed rules prevailed over common sense.

The cold is also piercing our Organization's vestments through the holes of a high number of seconded positions that remain vacant. This challenge has to be addressed especially regarding headquarters positions, in a way that is economically-wise and that would reflect the reality that a majority of

participating States are not currently able provide compensation to secondees.

For Canada, it is in the spirit of the Corfu Dialogue – which aims at restoring trust and confidence – and of friendship with Kazakhstan that we supported this 2010 Budget as, from our perspective, it doesn't reflect much what we would have like to see.

This Budget is not a meaningful step forward in strengthening peace and security, as well as supporting security cooperation and conflict prevention and resolution activities, in particular concerning unresolved conflicts and in connection with Afghanistan.

It also does not provide a signal that the OSCE is significantly increasing its efforts to promote and support a greater implementation of our OSCE human rights and democratic commitments.

Accountability-wise, there is still much do be done in order to reallocate resources and focus our work in areas where added value is found; in short, where the OSCE can make a difference.

To conclude, the above reflections represent important elements that we will consider when looking ahead to our work in 2010 and beyond, notably on the Scales of Contributions, future Budgets and personnel issues.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.