

Austrian Chairmanship

305th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2000

Opened: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 5.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. J. Stefan-Bastl
Mr. H.-P. Glanzer

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

Agenda item 1: OSCE MISSION TO GEORGIA

Head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia (PC.FR/24/00), Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Caucasus, Russian Federation, France-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey) (PC.DEL/618/00), United States of America (PC.DEL/620/00), Switzerland, Canada, Ukraine (also on behalf of Azerbaijan and Moldova), Georgia, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 376 (PC.DEC/376), the text of which is appended to this Journal, on the Timetable and Organizational Modalities of the Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Chairperson, Ukraine (interpretative statement, see Annex)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Return of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya*: Head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, France-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the

Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey)
(PC.DEL/619/00), Canada, Switzerland, United States of America,
Russian Federation, Chairperson

- (b) *Situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Albania* (PC.DEL/621/00),
France, United States of America, Chairperson, Secretary General

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

- (a) *Follow-up to the Eighth Meeting of the Economic Forum of the OSCE and other activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension: Representative of the Chairmanship, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*
- (b) *International Conference on "Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: An Integrated Approach to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism", held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 19 and 20 October 2000: Chairperson, Uzbekistan*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *REACT resources reporting form: Secretary General*
- (b) *Draft regulations for OSCE mission members: Secretary General*
- (c) *OSCE policy regarding arrest and detention of staff members and mission members: Secretary General*
- (d) *Staffing issues of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo: Secretary General*
- (e) *Election supervisors for the municipal elections in Kosovo on 28 October 2000: Secretary General*
- (f) *Meetings in the context of the Bratislava Process: Secretary General*
- (g) *WEU seminar on peace operations in Europe during the 1990s in Paris on 19 and 20 October 2000: Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

General elections in Canada on 27 November 2000: Canada

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 2 November 2000, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



305th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 305, Agenda item 2

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the Delegation of Ukraine:

“Taking into account that the organizations, institutions and initiatives that are to be invited to the Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council according to the PC decision just taken also include the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Delegation of Ukraine has been instructed to make the following interpretative statement.

The Ukrainian delegation has already informed you and other delegations that we have objections to the provisions of the document relating to the list of international organizations, institutions and initiatives that it is planned to invite to attend the ministerial meeting.

We consider that there are no reasons to include in this list the Commonwealth of Independent States.

There are several arguments in this connection. First of all, the Commonwealth of Independent States will be represented at the meeting individually by foreign ministers, and all other delegations will have a chance to hear the positions of the CIS countries on the issues discussed.

Second, Madam Chairperson, the CIS has only one standing body - the so-called Executive Committee. And, as we understand it, the invitation will be sent to that Committee. However, the Executive Committee has no right to speak on behalf of the CIS participating States or to deal with international security issues without a specific decision of the CIS top bodies, for example, its Council of Presidents or Council of Ministers, which, if they so decide, could elaborate a common position on a given issue. We are not aware that any such decision has been taken by either of these bodies.

Moreover, experience gained from the previous participation of the Executive Committee in high-level OSCE events demonstrates that its written contributions have never reflected the relevant position of each and every CIS participating State.

At the same time, being fully aware of the need for the Chairmanship to proceed with the preparations for the Ministerial Council, we have agreed to include in the decision the “Commonwealth of Independent States”. In this connection, it is our understanding that the CIS Executive Committee will be invited to make a written contribution on behalf of itself or any other CIS participating State, but not on behalf of Ukraine.”