

Chairmanship: Germany

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1113th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2016

Opened: 4.05 p.m.

Closed: 4.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. Pohl

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE 2016 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET  
FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1220 (PC.DEC/1220) on the 2016 supplementary budget for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Slovakia-European Union

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 3 p.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1220  
27 September 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**1113th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1113, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1220  
2016 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE FOR  
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 1197 of 31 December 2015 on the approval of the 2016 Unified Budget,

Takes note of the supplementary budget proposed under PC.ACMF/46/16/Rev.3 of 22 September 2016,

Approves the supplementary budget in the amount of 946,200 euros for the activities of the ODIHR Elections Programme on an exceptional basis;

Determines that this supplementary budget shall be financed from the 2014 Cash Surplus.

PC.DEC/1220  
27 September 2016  
Attachment 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the 2016 supplementary budget for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Russian delegation would like to make the following statement.

We regard this decision as an exceptional one that does not set a precedent for possible requests by the ODIHR for the allocation of supplementary budgetary resources for any of its programme activities. We take the position that the adoption of a supplementary budget for the ODIHR this year does not mean that we agree to an increase in the Office’s budget for 2017.

We are compelled to note that the ODIHR’s current budget-planning practice is unsatisfactory and gives rise to legitimate complaints. We once again call on the Office to adopt effective measures for the careful and transparent calculation of its expenses, including budget forecasts for the observation of election campaigns in participating States, and for the economical use of budgetary resources.

To that end, we call on the ODIHR to revise its electoral monitoring methodology and practice, which should be based on principles and rules for election observation approved by all the participating States and ensure that all the countries making up our Organization are treated equally in this area. It is essential to reach an agreement as soon as possible on uniform approaches for sending fully fledged observation missions to all participating States without exception. It is inadmissible that ODIHR missions are repeatedly sent to the same countries; while in some States monitoring is carried out in a “reduced” format or does not take place at all.

We request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

**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 the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision on the 2016 supplementary budget for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States takes this opportunity to reaffirm strong support for the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and for its valuable contributions throughout the OSCE region.

We continue to be impressed with how much ODIHR manages to accomplish with a small staff and a smaller budget. We support this year’s ODIHR budget proposal, including what we view as reasonable proposed increases.

In 2016, ODIHR marks its 25th anniversary. When the Heads of State or Government of the participating States gathered in Paris in 1990, they committed themselves to democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, establishing ODIHR as the OSCE’s principal institution for assisting participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments, thus enhancing regional security.

Today, at a time of new security challenges and threats on the part of some participating States to reject their OSCE commitments, ODIHR’s work is more critical than ever.

We remind our colleagues that ODIHR’s mandate is to help participating States to ‘ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote the principles of democracy, and ... to build, strengthen, and protect democratic institutions, as well as promote tolerance throughout society.’

ODIHR’s work – whether election observation (considered the international gold standard for election monitoring), police training, or development of guidelines to better protect human rights – contributes to the security of all 57 participating States because

ODIHR's work focuses on the dignity and rights of human beings, not governments. ODIHR's work makes us all a little safer, a little more secure.

Elections in Moldova, Uzbekistan, and Macedonia are important historical landmarks in the democratic landscapes of those countries, and the impact of these elections will echo far beyond the countries themselves and into the OSCE region. The elections are important moments in history, and the OSCE must be there and have a role.

We therefore call on all participating States to support this critical work and to support ODIHR's independence, flexibility, and capacity to carry out its vital mandate.

We reiterate our strong, unequivocal support for ODIHR, its independence and operating flexibility, and its leadership.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson."