
Chairmanship: Finland**696th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 17 January 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.30 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences on the death of Mr. Didier Fau, former Director of the Office of the Secretary General. The Permanent Council then observed a minute of silence.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Latvia to the OSCE, Mr. Nils Jansons.

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Presidential elections in Uzbekistan held on 23 December 2007:* Slovenia-European Union (PC.DEL/30/08), Canada (PC.DEL/27/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/21/08), Uzbekistan
- (b) *Abolition of the death penalty in Uzbekistan:* Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/31/08), Uzbekistan
- (c) *Presidential elections in Georgia held on 5 January 2008:* Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/32/08), Slovenia-European Union (PC.DEL/32/08), Azerbaijan (also on behalf of Moldova and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/35/08 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/26/08), Norway (PC.DEL/18/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/28/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/20/08), Georgia (PC.DEL/29/08 OSCE+)

- (d) *Pardoning of prisoners in Azerbaijan*: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/33/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/22/08), Azerbaijan
- (e) *Visa regime between Belarus and European Union member States in the context of the recent enlargement of the Schengen area*: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/34/08), Belarus
- (f) *Situation concerning the British Council offices in the Russian Federation*: United Kingdom (PC.DEL/38/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/19/08), Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the written report on the activities of the Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/12/08)*: Chairperson
- (b) *Appointment of the Head of the OSCE Office in Minsk*: Chairperson

Agenda item 3: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/08/Corr.1 OSCE+)*: Secretary General
- (b) *Financial situation in the OSCE*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/08/Corr.1 OSCE+), Chairperson
- (c) *Note verbale on the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan (SEC.GAL/7/08 OSCE+)*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/08/Corr.1 OSCE+)

- (d) *First meeting of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held in Madrid on 15 and 16 January 2008: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/08/Corr.1 OSCE+), Turkey (also on behalf of Spain) (PC.DEL/23/08)*

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and the current situation in Afghanistan: Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/25/08 OSCE+), United States of America*
- (b) *Formation of a new government in Croatia: Croatia (PC.DEL/17/08)*
- (c) *Language conforming of documents adopted by the Ministerial Council in the course of 2007 (SEC.INF/3/08 Restr.): Spain*
- (d) *Tenth anniversary of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance: Slovenia*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 24 January 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal