
Chairmanship: Finland**713th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 15 May 2008

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson informed the Permanent Council that the Chairman-in-Office, in a letter issued on 14 May 2008 (see the annex to this journal), had announced the adoption, through a silence procedure, of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (see MC.DEC/1/08, the text of which is appended to this journal). 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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/374/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/378/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/375/08 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/385/08), Turkey, Belarus (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Armenia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan delivered statements on the adoption of the decision.

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE CENTRE IN ASHGABAD

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad (PC.FR/12/08 OSCE+), 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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/371/08), Russian Federation, United States of America (PC.DEL/376/08), Norway

(PC.DEL/380/08), Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, Turkmenistan
(PC.DEL/383/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Parliamentary elections in Serbia, held on 11 May 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 and Montenegro; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/373/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/379/08), Norway (PC.DEL/381/08), Serbia (PC.DEL/382/08/Corr.1)
- (b) *Freedom of the media in Kyrgyzstan*: 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 Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/372/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/377/08), Kyrgyzstan
- (c) *Procedure for the selection of heads of OSCE field operations*: Uzbekistan, Chairperson, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, Belgium

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE SCALES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
2008 AND 2009

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 850 (PC.DEC/850), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the scales of contributions for 2008 and 2009.

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

Renewal of the appointment of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
(CIO.GAL/76/08 OSCE+): Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General*
(SEC.GAL/88/08 OSCE+): Secretary General
- (b) *Reissue of vacancy notices for seconded posts in the OSCE*: Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/88/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *Model OSCE conference to be held in Vienna in July 2008*: Secretary General

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Response of the Government of the United Kingdom to the all-party parliamentary inquiry into anti-Semitism: United Kingdom*
- (b) *Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 April to 9 May 2008: Ukraine (PC.DEL/384/08 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Organizational matters: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 22 May 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/713
15 May 2008
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

713th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 713, Point 2

LETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland
and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE,
Alexander Stubb

Helsinki, 14 May 2008

Dear colleague,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (MC.DD/1/08/Rev.1), expiring on 14 May 2008, at noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Sixteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council on 15 May 2008.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretative statement or a formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr.) Alexander Stubb

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

MC.DEC/1/08
14 May 2008

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/08
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/06, the term of office of the currently Acting Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Christian Strohal, will expire on 30 June 2008,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Christian Strohal,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Janez Lenarčič as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2008.

MC.DEC/1/08
14 May 2008
Attachment

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 Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council decision concerning the appointment of Ambassador Janez Lenarčič to the post of Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), our delegation is authorized to make the following interpretative statement.

Having joined the consensus regarding the candidacy of Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, we recall the need to continue the reform of the OSCE ODIHR for the purposes of enhancing the transparency of its activities and strengthening its accountability to the OSCE’s collective bodies. We expect the Office’s new Director to make the relevant proposals and carry out the relevant actions, including those necessary for the full implementation of Decision No. 19/06, adopted at the Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels, in its section concerning the ODIHR. At the same time, we confirm our willingness to engage in constructive co-operation with the new Director of the ODIHR.

We believe that as a first priority the problems of introducing order in the area of election observations and the organization of the OSCE’s human dimension events should be solved. In particular, it is necessary to take specific steps to standardize the election observation procedures and convert them into uniform rules agreed on by all participating States, as well as to adjust the modalities for holding the OSCE’s human dimension events.

In this connection, we recall the proposals introduced by a number of participating States in 2007 concerning the adoption of ‘Basic principles for the organization of OSCE ODIHR observation of national elections’ and ‘Modalities of NGO participation in OSCE meetings’.

It is also important to continue the efforts to enhance the transparency of the ODIHR’s extrabudgetary financing. We take the position that the Office, in accordance with its mandate, is called upon to assist participating States in fulfilling commitments within the OSCE at their request, and not to foist such ‘assistance’ on them.

We stress that the ODIHR is a specialized institution of the OSCE and, as such, is accountable to all participating States. We regard as inadmissible any ODIHR activity that is

carried out without the approval of the OSCE's collective bodies or that circumvents its decisions.

We will structure our further co-operation with the ODIHR, and will also revise our position within the framework of the discussion of the Office's programme activities and budget, depending on the degree to which the Office's leadership takes into account in its activities the approaches set forth above.

I request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day."

713th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 850
SCALES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2008 AND 2009**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 704 of 24 November 2005 on the Scales of Contributions for 2005–2007,

1. Approves, as a provisional measure, the attached standard and field operations scales of contributions as contained in the annex, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009;
2. Decides that the scales of contributions for 2010–2012 should be established in accordance with the following criteria:
 - Gradual application of the principle of capacity to pay, based on the United Nations criteria for contributions;
 - Political nature of the Organization;
 - Revised level of the ceiling in the field operations scale for the contribution of any one participating State;
 - A floor for the contribution of any one participating State;
 - Revision of the scales every three years based on the above criteria and the current United Nations adjusted GNI figures;
3. Tasks the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) to discuss the Scales of Contributions for 2010–2012, based on the above-mentioned criteria, and requests the Chairperson of the ACMF to make recommendations to the Permanent Council on this matter by the end of September 2009.

THE SCALES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2008 AND 2009

Participating State	Standard scale per cent for 2008 and 2009	Field operation scale per cent for 2008 and 2009
Albania	0.125	0.020
Germany	9.350	12.060
United States of America	11.500	14.000
Andorra	0.125	0.020
Armenia	0.050	0.020
Austria	2.510	2.160
Azerbaijan	0.050	0.020
Belarus	0.280	0.040
Belgium	3.240	3.420
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.125	0.020
Bulgaria	0.550	0.050
Canada	5.530	5.340
Cyprus	0.190	0.110
Croatia	0.190	0.110
Denmark	2.100	2.050
Spain	4.580	5.000
Estonia	0.190	0.020
Finland	1.850	1.980
France	9.350	11.090
Georgia	0.050	0.020
United Kingdom	9.350	11.090
Greece	0.980	0.730
Hungary	0.600	0.380
Ireland	0.750	0.790
Iceland	0.190	0.090
Italy	9.350	11.090
Kazakhstan	0.360	0.060
Kyrgyzstan	0.050	0.020
Latvia	0.190	0.025
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.125	0.020
Liechtenstein	0.125	0.020
Lithuania	0.190	0.025
Luxembourg	0.470	0.250

Participating State	Standard scale per cent for 2008 and 2009	Field operation scale per cent for 2008 and 2009
Malta	0.125	0.025
Moldova	0.050	0.020
Monaco	0.125	0.020
Montenegro	0.050	0.020
Norway	2.050	2.070
Uzbekistan	0.350	0.050
Netherlands	4.360	3.570
Poland	1.350	1.050
Portugal	0.980	0.560
Romania	0.600	0.120
Russian Federation	6.000	2.500
San Marino	0.125	0.020
Holy See	0.125	0.020
Serbia	0.140	0.020
Slovakia	0.280	0.150
Slovenia	0.220	0.175
Sweden	3.240	3.410
Switzerland	2.810	2.720
Tajikistan	0.050	0.020
Czech Republic	0.570	0.420
Turkmenistan	0.050	0.020
Turkey	1.010	0.750
Ukraine	0.680	0.140
Total	100.005	100.010