

Chairmanship: North Macedonia

1444th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 28 September 2023 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 1.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Djundev

Chairperson, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1273/23 OSCE+)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Ukraine (PC.DEL/1300/23), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1279/23), Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Ukraine; the potential candidate country Georgia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1309/23), Canada (PC.DEL/1329/23), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1305/23 OSCE+), Poland (PC.DEL/1274/23 OSCE+), Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LANGUAGE SERVICES PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1462 (PC.DEC/1462) on the Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization for the Conference and Language Services Programme for 2023, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Spain (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Ongoing crimes by the Kiev regime and dangerous policies of the Western alliance to exacerbate tensions*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1285/23)
- (b) *Continued glorification of Nazism in Western countries*: Belarus (PC.DEL/1297/23 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1284/23), Canada (PC.DEL/1327/23)
- (c) *Recent developments in the north of Kosovo*: Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Ukraine; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1310/23), United States of America (also on behalf of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/1281/23), Albania (PC.DEL/1288/23 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1299/23 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1304/23 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1277/23), Canada (PC.DEL/1325/23 OSCE+), Montenegro (PC.DEL/1315/23 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1283/23), North Macedonia, Serbia (PC.DEL/1302/23 OSCE+)
- (d) *Tragic anniversary of the Munich Agreement of 1938*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1287/23), Canada
- (e) *Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1280/23), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1301/23 OSCE+), Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1311/23), Norway (PC.DEL/1278/23), Germany (PC.DEL/1295/23 OSCE+), United Kingdom, France (PC.DEL/1290/23), Canada (PC.DEL/1328/23 OSCE+)
- (f) *Efforts of the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1282/23 OSCE+)
- (g) *Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts in the Garabagh Economic Region of Azerbaijan*: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1293/23 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1303/23 OSCE+)

- (h) *Renewed aggression by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh resulting in ethnic cleansing of Armenian population from their ancestral homeland: Armenia (PC.DEL/1306/23 OSCE+)*

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

Activities of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office: Russian Federation

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Situation in the South Caucasus: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/113/23 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Situation in Kosovo: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/113/23 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York from 5 to 26 September 2023: Secretary General*
- (d) *Current financial situation in the OSCE: Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the OSCE,
Ambassador M. Michail: Chairperson, Cyprus*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 October 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference

1444th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1444, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1462
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION
FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LANGUAGE SERVICES
PROGRAMME FOR 2023**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Reiterating the importance of Permanent Council Decisions No. 486 of 28 June 2002 and No. 553 of 27 June 2003,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.04 – Provisional Expenditure Authorization,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.01(b) – with reference to the authority of the Permanent Council to take decisions on all elements of the budget,

Recalling Financial Regulation 7.07 – Cash Surplus or Deficit, paragraph (b),

Taking note of the 2023 Forecast Deficit in the Conference and Language Services Programme (document PC.ACMF/53/23),

Taking note of the available cash surplus for 2021 as indicated in annex 2,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2023 Unified Budget are still ongoing and without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

1. Approves the Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization for 2023, without setting a precedent, to the total amount of 958,000 euros in order to meet the anticipated financing requirements as set forth in annex 1;
2. Authorizes the use of 958,000 euros from the 2021 cash surplus, on an exceptional basis, in support of the Additional Expenditure Authorization as set forth in annex 2.

2023 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

Fund	Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Transfers Financial Regulation	Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Forecast Expenditure 2023	Estimated Year-End Balance	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Provisional Expenditure Authorization
	Financial Regulation 3.04*	3.02(b)**					
	A	B	C=A+B	D	E=C-D	F	G=C+F

The Secretariat

Secretary General and Central Services

Conference and Language Services

5,437,500 (40,500) 5,397,000 6,354,936 (957,936) 958,000 6,355,000

TOTAL ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

958,000

*Reflects provisional expenditure authorization until the end of 2023.

**Reflects transfers to date.

**FINANCING OF THE 2023 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL
EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION USING
THE AVAILABLE CASH SURPLUS**

Cash Surplus Year	Available Cash Surplus	Financing of 2023 Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Cash Surplus Balance
2021	3,827,077.88	958,000.00	2,869,077.88

PC.DEC/1462
28 September 2023
Attachment 1

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**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 Spain (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine):

“The Member States of the European Union welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council decision granting an authorization of additional expenditure for Conference and Language Services (CLS).

Conference and Language Services enables the work of the entire OSCE and we must maintain the service level required to ensure that the Organization can function well. Through this decision we have avoided the risk of a sudden disruption to the operation of meetings of the decision-making bodies all the way to the end of the year.

Going forward, the participating States should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to the CLS programme.

We call upon all the participating States to be consistent with their commitments and to provide the Organization with adequate means for implementing these, so as to allow the OSCE to function effectively in its three dimensions. We reiterate our urgent call on all the participating States to adopt a Unified Budget for 2023, and we stand ready to join consensus on it as soon as possible.”

PC.DEC/1462
28 September 2023
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Regarding the draft decision on the additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services (CLS) Programme, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada supports the draft decision as proposed by the Chairmanship, allocating 958,000 euros from the 2021 cash surplus to fund anticipated financing requirements in the CLS programme. Though we would have preferred a Unified Budget, we think that support for the draft decision is still in the better interest of the Organization.

We emphasize that the piecemeal approach of allocating resources is a bad financial management practice and is neither sustainable nor desirable and should not become common practice.

We regret that the Russian Federation is withholding its support for the 2023 Unified Budget on politically motivated grounds. We call on Russia to cease obstructing the resolution of the 2023 Unified Budget.

We want to acknowledge the difficult situation that the lack of a Unified Budget creates for OSCE staff. We thank them for their professionalism and skill in managing this extremely difficult situation.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision. Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1462
28 September 2023
Attachment 3

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 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme for 2023, the Russian Federation notes the following.

The use of a cash surplus from the OSCE budget to cover the forecast cash deficit of the Secretariat’s Conference and Language Services is a step taken out of necessity in view of the lack of agreement among the participating States on the Organization’s Unified Budget for the current year.

We are gravely concerned by the fact that, for the second year in a row, it has not been possible to reach consensus on the budget estimates owing to certain countries’ attempts to politicize the discussion of this technical matter and to put it in confrontational territory. We stress that all responsibility for this situation rests with those who refuse to remove from document PC.ACMF/57/22 a programmatic ‘narrative’ that does not correspond to the approved mandates and agreed OSCE documents, as required by Permanent Council Decision No. 486 (2002). Seeing that, in terms of the level of funding, the budget proposal for 2023 has long since been agreed on, it is their destructive and obstructionist approach that is pushing the Organization to the brink of a financial crisis due to a lack of resources.

The initiative of giving the OSCE Secretary General carte blanche in the use of cash surpluses is not in keeping with Financial Regulation 7.07. There has, moreover, been a significant decline in transparency and accountability in the management of the Organization’s financial assets of late. Similarly, the proposal to transfer to an extrabudgetary programme money originating from assessed contributions is not in line with international practice. Taking into account what has been said, we consider that cash surpluses may be used to provide additional funding for OSCE programmes and funds exclusively pursuant to Permanent Council decisions adopted on an ad hoc basis.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.”