
Chairmanship: Finland

**REINFORCED MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(740th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 14 November 2008

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

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

Agenda item 1: PREPARATIONS FOR THE HELSINKI MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL MEETING

Finland, Chairperson, France-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; and the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/994/08), France, Netherlands (PC.DEL/999/08), Belarus (PC.DEL/996/08 OSCE+), Romania (Annex), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1003/08 OSCE+), Italy, Armenia, Germany (PC.DEL/1007/08/Rev.1 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1008/08 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Slovakia (PC.DEL/1005/08 OSCE+), Czech Republic, Belgium, United States of America (PC.DEL/997/08), Turkey (PC.DEL/1002/08 OSCE+), Ireland, Canada, Lithuania (PC.DEL/1006/08), Croatia (PC.DEL/998/08), Poland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Luxembourg (PC.DEL/1000/08), Austria, Moldova, Greece, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Organizational matters: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 20 November 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



740th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 740, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation fully supports the statement given by France on behalf of the European Union. I will focus on some issues of particular importance to my country.

On politico-military aspects of security, Romania notes with satisfaction the ongoing substantive discussions that have taken place in the FSC during 2008, especially those concerning the Security Dialogue. Romania supports the two draft decisions on the politico-military dimension currently under consideration for adoption at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Helsinki. We welcome the recent endorsement by the FSC of the draft decision on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

We also hope that consensus will soon be reached on the draft decision on issues relevant to the FSC. We stress the importance of this decision, as it sets the strategic priorities for FSC activities in the year to come.

On issues concerning the non-military aspects of security, I would like to underline Romania's continuing support for Decision No. 4/07 of the Madrid Ministerial Council Meeting, on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts in this respect by the Secretary General and the Chairmanship-in-Office. We are disappointed that, almost one year after adoption of the Ministerial decision, there is still no implementation phase in progress.

Romania remains committed to the development by the OSCE of its competences in the field of countering terrorism and we hope that the decision being discussed in this regard by the Security Committee will in the end attract a consensus of the participating States.

We commend Ambassador H. Talvitie's activity and efforts in the Republic of Moldova to foster the continuity of consultations in a constructive spirit and to encourage Chisinau and Tiraspol to move forward on confidence-building measures in the framework of the working groups.

The "5+2" format remains the only legitimate framework for a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. Fulfilment of the remaining commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit, almost nine years ago, will make a substantial contribution to the settlement of the conflict with respect to the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The impact of the August crisis in Georgia goes beyond the regional implications. Unfortunately, one of its direct consequences translated itself into diminishing the credit that the OSCE presence in the region has enjoyed so far. Realities that have been imposed unilaterally and artificially on the ground may make it necessary to revise the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, as some parts of it may have become obsolete. However, no new mandate should question or cast doubt on respect for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Conflict resolution should remain at the core of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

My country attaches great significance to issues related to climate change and environmental protection. We also support action on the issue of the security implications of climate change. We therefore stand ready to participate actively in the drafting of the decision proposed by the Chairmanship-in-Office.

We welcome the dynamics in the human dimension. We hope that the final form of the ministerial decisions in this respect will reflect reinforced commitments in this key dimension of the OSCE. We strongly welcome the decision of the Finnish Chairmanship to pursue a decision on enhancing the OSCE's efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area. We commend the focus on implementation of existing commitments and the innovative and ambitious approach to action in the field of education in the draft decision.

This year's Ministerial Council Meeting will also mark a historic moment in the field of human rights — the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We look forward to capitalizing on this moment by reiterating our commitments in this field and highlighting the OSCE's added value in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe. Therefore, we support the adoption of an ambitious and encompassing declaration on human rights.

Trafficking in human beings has long been one of the issues affecting the OSCE area. Our responses need to adapt to the increasing complexity of the phenomenon, to step up prevention, and to enhance the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators. The victim-centred approach of the draft decision is a step forward in matching our responses to the current challenges.

My delegation fully supports the adoption of the draft convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity, and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. We would like to encourage the Finnish Chairmanship, together with the incoming Chairmanships-in-Office and with the support of all the participating States, to assess the possibilities for conferring on the OSCE an international legal personality as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.