
Chairmanship: Kazakhstan**808th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 6 May 2010

Opened: 9.45 a.m.

Closed: 1.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Abdrakhmanov
Mr. U. Suleimenov

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE,
H.E. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU

Chairperson, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (PC.DEL/345/10), Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 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 Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/361/10), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/358/10), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/352/10), Holy See (PC.DEL/349/10), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/374/10), United States of America (PC.DEL/353/10), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/375/10), Switzerland (Annex 1), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation), Armenia, Turkey (PC.DEL/371/10)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL
MINORITIES ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO KYRGYZSTAN

Chairperson, High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/2/10 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/369/10), Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 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 Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/362/10), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/359/10), United States of America (PC.DEL/356/10), Turkey (PC.DEL/373/10)

Agenda item 3: OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/5/10 OSCE+), Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/363/10), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/360/10), United States of America (PC.DEL/357/10), Turkey (PC.DEL/372/10), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/376/10 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE

Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) (Annex 2), Spain-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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/364/10), United States of America (PC.DEL355/10), Canada (Annex 3), Holy See (Annex 4)

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *World Press Freedom Day*: Spain-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 Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/366/10), United States of America (PC.DEL/354/10), San Marino (Annex 5)
- (b) *Rail dispute between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan*: Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/367/10), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/350/10), Uzbekistan

- (c) *Case of Mr. N. Botakuziev in Tajikistan*: Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/365/10), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/351/10)
- (d) *Case of Mr. Y. Zhovtis in Kazakhstan*: Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/368/10)

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

*Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the
Chairperson-in-Office*: Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/85/10 OSCE+)*: Secretary General

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a report on the trilateral summit meeting between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 24 April 2010*: Serbia (PC.DEL/370/10)
- (b) *Organizational matters related to the 2010 Human Dimension Seminar, to be held in Warsaw from 17 to 19 May 2010*: Chairperson
- (c) *Organizational matters related to a conference to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Copenhagen Document, to be held in Copenhagen on 10 and 11 June 2010*: Chairperson
- (d) *Organizational matters related to the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, to be held in Astana on 29 and 30 June 2010, and the informal meeting of the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs, to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 10 and 11 July 2010*: Chairperson

- (e) *Photographic exhibition to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, taking place in Vienna on 6 May 2010:*
Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 13 May 2010, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



808th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 808, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation welcomes the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, H.E. Professor Ihsanoglu, and thanks him for his address. As Professor Ihsanoglu knows from recent meetings with the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs, my country attaches great importance to strengthening the relations between Switzerland and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) as the political organ of the Islamic world.

The reason for my asking for the floor is to respond briefly to Mr. Ihsanoglu's comments regarding the decision against the construction of new minarets in Switzerland.

First of all, I would like to emphasize that the ban on the construction of new minarets is not a restriction on the right to practise one's faith. The Swiss constitution guarantees the right to religious freedom, and Muslims in Switzerland will continue to have the freedom to profess their faith in Islam and to practise their religion.

Mosques and Muslim places of worship, of which there are currently at least 150 in Switzerland, will remain unaffected. The construction and use of the latter have not been prohibited.

An independent analysis carried out by Swiss universities of the underlying reasons for the choice of vote of the population shows clearly that the referendum result was not a rejection of Switzerland's Muslim community or of its religion or culture. It appears that the Swiss voters reacted to a negative yet abstract perception forged by international media coverage of a political and violent Islam that wants to spread Sharia law and oppresses women.

An open and constructive dialogue between religious and social groupings and the authorities can help address these fears, lend visibility to the Muslim communities of Switzerland, and promote mutual understanding.

Consequently, for the Swiss Government, it is a priority to strengthen this dialogue. The Muslim communities in Switzerland have reacted positively to the invitation to engage in dialogue, and two very constructive meetings have already been held, mainly focusing on the question of how to improve integration measures and mutual understanding within society.

The Swiss government can understand the disappointment and incomprehension felt by many people in the Muslim world.

Nonetheless, a hardening of positions will not solve any problems. The Swiss government is a staunch advocate of co-operation rather than confrontation, and has strengthened its commitment to promote continued dialogue both within Switzerland and also at intergovernmental and multilateral levels. We invite the OIC and its Member States to become our partners on the international level in this endeavour, especially in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In our experience, the best way to promote mutual understanding is for Muslim and non-Muslim organizations to work together in such fields as humanitarian work or development. Dialogue should be promoted through practical endeavours. The thematic platforms of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, on the topic of bridging the gap in the humanitarian field, for instance, or on media literacy, are most relevant for the issues we are facing. Switzerland is committed to active involvement in such platforms and invites other countries, Muslim and non-Muslim, to join in this dialogue through practical efforts.

Switzerland wants to remain an open-minded and tolerant country, a reliable international partner, and a country that values solidarity and is committed to making its contribution to the world community. Muslims continue to be welcome in Switzerland. This is something the Swiss Government can guarantee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/808
6 May 2010
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

808th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 808, Agenda item 4

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS,
KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA, TAJIKISTAN,
TURKMENISTAN, UKRAINE AND UZBEKISTAN)**

Victory Day on 9 May will remain forever in the memory of mankind as the significant date when the peoples of the world and of Europe were saved from fascism, a date that brought closer the end of the Second World War. This date reminds us of the great achievement of the peoples of our countries, who at the cost of tens of millions of lives defended the freedom and independence of future generations. Their memory will live on forever in our hearts. For that reason, we welcome the adoption on 2 December 2009 at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens of the Declaration on the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the End of World War II.

We shall never forget those who perished on the battlefields and in the fascist death camps or the victims of the blockades and deprivations, among whom there were people of all nationalities. To preserve their burial places, the monuments and memorial sites dedicated to them and to prevent their desecration – this is our sacred duty.

We bow our heads before the veterans who are still with us and who through their feats in battle brought Victory, and before those who toiled on the home front and who spared no effort to make that Victory possible. We call for respect to be shown to them and for ongoing care to be paid to their needs.

We shall always remember the decisive role of the peoples of our countries in defeating fascism, whether on the battle front or in the rear. We urge that the rising generation be educated so as to have a sense of pride in their shared heroic history and in the great achievement in combating fascism.

We pay tribute to the valour of all those who fought against Nazism, our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, and we shall never forget their contribution to our common Victory. The experience of the international community in joining efforts in the face of the mortal danger of fascism has never been needed as much as it is today when mankind is encountering serious threats and challenges to its security and increasingly frequent manifestations of Nazi

ideology, extremism and xenophobia. It is important that together we counter these and other threats through our efforts within the OSCE and elsewhere.

We call on all OSCE participating States to co-operate actively in the interest of strengthening peace and shaping an indivisible security space, and to seek the settlement of conflicts by exclusively peaceful means on the basis of the norms and principles of international law as well as the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr. Chairperson, we would request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.



808th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 808, Agenda item 4

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for placing this important topic on today's agenda.

Some sixty-five years ago, Europe witnessed the largest air- and seaborne invasion in human history. With others, Canadian troops crossed the Channel to launch the liberation of Europe and to rescue civilization from the darkness of fascism by defending our fundamental values and principles: freedom, justice and the rule of law, liberty, and the respect for human rights and dignity.

Today, in the Netherlands, Canada's Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, is joining Canadian Second World War veterans to take part in a commemoration of the end of the war at a cemetery near the Belgian border where nearly a thousand Canadians soldiers are buried. So many more Canadians are buried throughout Europe – over 100,000 from two world wars. Their efforts and sacrifices must continue to be remembered and honoured.

Soon after the liberation of Europe, Canada gave back the keys to the countries it had helped liberate and immediately committed itself, with others, to carrying out the massive European recovery programme called the Marshall Plan.

However, as history has shown, our Euro-Atlantic security work remains unfinished – we have been through the Cold War era and more recently we have seen the persistence of subregional tensions and protracted conflicts in the Balkans war and the 2008 war in Georgia.

So while it is important to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, we must carry on with our work for peace and stability and with our co-operative security efforts through collective co-operation in organizations like the OSCE.

In this connection, it is also important to focus on the positive and on what unites rather than divides us. We should not forget that just over two decades ago we witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and the peaceful unification of Europe, which were greatly assisted by the CSCE/OSCE process over 35 years. From the signing of the Helsinki Final Act (1975) onwards, work was done to build the bridges of trust, confidence and people-to-people ties that made this dream of Europe's unification a reality.

And we should also focus on the fact that today many of our soldiers are working shoulder-to-shoulder in difficult battles in Afghanistan and in our common fight against twenty-first century threats.

The Dutch Prime Minister put it aptly at the ceremony in the Netherlands: “It is essential that we pass on the torch of history to the next generation”. We must try to extract some of the lessons learned from our shared history ... so that future generations will understand the tremendous heroism and the sacrifices that were made, so that we can today, and in the future, live in greater peace, dignity and freedom.

Before concluding, allow me to thank the delegations of the Russian Federation and certain States formerly in the Soviet Union for hosting a special photo exhibition and reception at the OSCE today to mark the end of the Second World War in Europe. We see this as a gesture of remembrance and reconciliation.

We also agree with the Russian Federation’s statement in connection with this topic that “it is important to continue to work together on issues of tolerance, and to maintain peace and security, and to uphold the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.”

I hereby ask the Chairperson to attach Canada’s statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you/merci/Rahmet!



808th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 808, Agenda item 4

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Sixty-five years ago, on 8 May 1945, the Second World War ended in Europe. The conclusion of that terrible calamity not only led people to hope for the return of the prisoners, deportees and refugees; it also awakened a desire to build a better Europe. The Continent could begin once more to hope in a future of peace and democracy. More than half a century later, individuals, families and peoples still retain memories of those six terrible years: memories of fear, violence, extreme poverty, death; tragic experiences of painful separation, endured in the absence of all security and freedom; recurring traumas brought about by the incessant bloodshed.

It was not easy at the time to comprehend fully the many tragic dimensions of the conflict. But the passage of time has brought an increased awareness of the effect of that event on the 20th century and on the future of the world. The Second World War was not only an historical event of the first order; it also marked a turning-point for humanity in our time. As the years go by, the memories of the War must not grow dim; rather, they ought to become a stern lesson for our generation and for generations yet to come.

What the War meant for Europe and for the world has come to be understood over the past five decades, thanks to new information which has made possible a better knowledge of the sufferings it caused. The tragic experience of the years 1939–1945 today represents a kind of point of reference necessary for all who wish to reflect on the present and on the future of humanity.

It can never be sufficiently repeated that the Second World War changed the life of so many individuals and peoples for the worse. The point was reached where hellish death camps were built, where millions of Jews and hundreds of thousands of gypsies and other human beings met their death in atrocious conditions; their only fault was that they belonged to another people. Auschwitz, along with so many other concentration camps, remains the horribly eloquent symbol of the effects of totalitarianism. For totalitarianism destroys fundamental human freedoms and tramples upon human rights. Failure to understand that when freedoms are trampled on means that the foundations are laid for a dangerous decline into violence and hatred.

After 1945, wars unfortunately did not come to an end. Violence, terrorism and armed attacks have continued to darken these last decades. Today too many conflicts are still raging in different parts of the world. Public opinion, shaken by the horrible pictures which enter homes each day via television, reacts emotionally but all too quickly grows accustomed to these conflicts and comes to accept their inevitability. Besides being unjust, this attitude is extremely dangerous. We must never forget what happened in the past and what is still happening today. These are tragedies which affect countless innocent victims, whose cries of terror and suffering are a challenge to the consciences of all decent men and women. We cannot and must not yield to the logic of arms!

The Holy See, in addition to being a signatory of the major International Treaties and Conventions, has tirelessly sought to remind the international community of the urgent need to strengthen guidelines for disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and for the elimination of chemical and biological weapons, especially those which are especially deadly and which strike indiscriminately. The Holy See has also invited public opinion to become more aware of the continuing phenomenon of the arms trade, a grave matter urgently calling for serious ethical reflection. Nor should it be overlooked that not only the militarization of States but also the easy access to arms enjoyed by private individuals or groups, which favours the spread of organized crime and terrorism, represents an unpredictable and constant threat to peace.

There must exist a connection between the memory of that terrible world conflict and the aims which should inspire national and international policies. In particular, it will be necessary to ensure effective means of controlling the international arms market and to make joint efforts to set up adequate structures for intervention in case of crises, in order to persuade all those involved to prefer negotiations to violent confrontation. In this, the OSCE has carved out a niche for itself.

Twenty years after the end of the Second World War, in 1965, Pope Paul VI, addressing the United Nations Organization, asked: "Will the world ever come to change the selfish and bellicose outlook that has spun out such a great part of its history up to now?". In many respects, this question still awaits a response. May the memory of the Second World War rekindle in all – according to their possibilities – a resolve to work for a firm political commitment to peace in Europe and in the entire world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/808
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Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

808th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 808, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SAN MARINO

Seventeen years ago, the United Nations General Assembly, following up a UNESCO recommendation, established that 3 May would be dedicated to the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day.

San Marino was one of the countries that supported this decision with conviction. We believe this is a due tribute of esteem and thankfulness towards all who have worked and continue to work with great sacrifice in the profession of journalism, which has the primary goal of divulging information and of telling the truth without distortion or partiality.

Press freedom is one of the main warranties of a democratic State towards its people and it is the most credible expression of a modern society that safeguards freedom of expression without constraints.

The celebration of this occasion also calls for deeper analyses of the autonomy of this delicate sector and of its responsibility. These are essential prerequisites to keeping opinions, judgements, proposals, and evaluations free of all limits and reserves except the ones that safeguard pluralism of thought and respect of conscience.

There is no freedom of information without freedom of criticism in the face of events happening around us. Those playing such an important role must be free to do so with authority and to adopt a proactive attitude in the exclusive interest of the truth.

All this cannot be bound to one scheme of rules, although rules are necessary in order to allow for diversity of political, civil, religious and cultural sensitivities. It is furthermore necessary that the profession of journalism should be practised with a scrupulous deontology and professionalism. Journalists act in a fundamental sector of civil life. Objectivity and an open mind towards diversity of opinion in the population – assuming respect for freedom – are basic principles to be respected by a free and independent press. Beyond the celebrations, all actors and institutions involved need to renew their commitment to considering the World Press Freedom Day a meaningful step on the path towards civilization.