
Belgian Chairmanship**640th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 30 November 2006

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 10.50 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. B. de Crombrughe

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *Death penalty in the United States of America*: Finland-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; 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/1154/06), United States of America

(b) *Freedom of the media in Azerbaijan*: Finland-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; 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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1155/06), United States of America, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Chairperson

(c) *United States Department of State International Religious Freedom Report 2006*: Uzbekistan, United States of America

(d) *Kazakhstan's candidacy for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2009*: Kazakhstan (Annex), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON A REVISION OF PERMANENT COUNCIL
DECISION NO. 745 OF 2 NOVEMBER 2006 ON THE
TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PARAGRAPH 4
OF SECTION II OF THE DECISION

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 745/Rev.1 (PC.DEC/745/Rev.1), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the timetable and organizational modalities of the Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (revision of Permanent Council Decision No. 745 of 2 November 2006 on the timetable and organizational modalities of the Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council to reflect additional international organizations in paragraph 4 of section II of the decision).

Agenda item 3: 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/222/06):* Chairperson
- (b) *Meeting between the Chairman-in-Office and representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan, in Minsk on 29 November 2006:* Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Meeting of chiefs of police, held in Brussels on 24 November 2006:*
Secretary General
- (b) *Address by the Secretary General to the EU Political and Security Committee in Brussels:* Secretary General

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Invitation to the exhibition organized by Kazakhstan on the Art of the Great Steppe, on 30 November 2006:* Chairperson
- (b) *Organizational matters:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/640
30 November 2006
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

640th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No.640, Agenda item 1(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I am taking the floor to make just a few remarks regarding the deliberations on the draft decision on Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the Organization in 2009 that took place at the Preparatory Committee meeting on 28 November.

First, we are grateful to the Chairmanship for including this issue on the agenda, strictly in line with the Rules of Procedure.

Of course, we wish to reiterate our gratitude to the colleagues who, on behalf of their delegations, have firmly confirmed their endorsement of our application.

Nevertheless, the Chairmanship's refusal to circulate the draft, which, according to the above-mentioned Rules, would be a normal duty of any Chairmanship, on the pretext of an absence of consensus on its content, is an alarming sign of the situation in the OSCE.

I am sure you will agree that among the Ministerial Council draft decisions, there are a number that may be considered to be of the similar status, in other words, lack consensus. All of them deserve a normal form of draft decisions.

In this situation, we proceeded on our own, strictly following the Rules of Procedure and the provisions of Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 adopted at Porto, and in accordance with previous experience.

Mr. Chairperson,

Kazakhstan will continue to promote its legitimate right to contribute to the future of this Organization in 2009 as Chairman. This is our firm political will, and we see no reason to step aside. We do not challenge the moral authority of any of our partners to share their expertise with others. Nevertheless, this has nothing to do with the issue of the Chairmanship itself. The pretence of imposing additional criteria is a clear violation of the principle of the equality of the participating States in this Organization. Instead, it would be logical to discuss these criteria as regards the issue of membership itself. However, once it has become a part of the Organization, every individual State may contribute its specific talents and expertise on an equal footing.

We confirm once more our readiness to pursue an open dialogue with all the interested parties in the search for a wording that can attract a consensus. That consensus should be based on the principles outlined earlier.

I ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to include this statement in the journal of this meeting.

Thank you.