
Chairmanship: Greece**769th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 16 July 2009

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences upon the recent plane crash in Iran involving victims from Armenia, Georgia and Iran.

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE OFFICE IN YEREVAN

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan (PC.FR/15/09 Restr.), Sweden-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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/593/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/607/09 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/599/09), Armenia (PC.DEL/605/09 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Office in Minsk (PC.FR/14/09 OSCE+), Sweden-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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/594/09),

United States of America (PC.DEL/598/09), Russian Federation
(PC.DEL/608/09 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/603/09 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2008 AND THE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 896 (PC.DEC/896), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2008 and the Report of the External Auditor.

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Media legislation in Kazakhstan:* Sweden-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/596/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/600/09), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/606/09)
- (b) *First meeting of the joint incident prevention and response mechanism of the Geneva Discussions, held in Gali on 14 July 2009:* Sweden-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 Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/595/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/601/09), Georgia, Russian Federation, Chairperson
- (c) *Murder of human rights defender Ms. Natalya Estemirova:* Sweden-European Union (PC.DEL/597/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/602/09), Georgia, Norway (PC.DEL/604/09), Russian Federation, Chairperson
- (d) *Eighteenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Vilnius from 29 June to 3 July 2009:* OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, United States of America, Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Charalampos Christopoulos to Washington, D.C., from 13 to 16 July 2009:* Chairperson

- (b) *Informal ambassadorial meeting on the follow-up to the informal ministerial meeting in Corfu, to be held in Vienna on 21 July 2009*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/118/09 OSCE+)*: Director for Management and Finance
- (b) *Reissuance of vacancy notices for seconded posts in the ODIHR*: Director for Management and Finance

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

G8 Summit, held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009: Italy, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 23 July 2009, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

769th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 769, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 896
FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 AND
THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations, particularly Regulations 7.05 and 8.06(e), as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96), as well as Step 5(b) of PC Decision No. 553 on the OSCE's Unified Budget Process,

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

Taking note of the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/28/09 of 19 June 2009),

Expressing its gratitude to the External Auditor, the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, for the work done,

1. Accepts the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008;
2. Requests the Secretary General to establish and submit to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance not later than 31 October 2009 a work plan for follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor as reflected in its Report for 2008. Further requests the Secretary General to inform the Permanent Council through the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance about the implementation of this plan on a regular basis, taking into account guidance from the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance;
3. Welcomes the Audit Committee's regular review of the OSCE's systems of internal and external controls;
4. Welcomes the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine as the External Auditor for 2009 and looks forward to its external audit services.