
Chairmanship: Finland**723rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 24 July 2008

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *The death penalty in the United States of America:* 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, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/666/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/663/08)

(b) *Arrest of Mr. R. Karadžić in Belgrade:* 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 and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/669/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/664/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/676/08 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/670/08), Norway (PC.DEL/673/08), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (PC.DEL/672/08)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2008 FOLLOW-UP OSCE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM: PARTNERSHIP OF STATE AUTHORITIES, CIVIL

SOCIETY AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN
COMBATING TERRORISM

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 855 (PC.DEC/855), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism: Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism.

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, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Canada (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2007 AND THE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 856 (PC.DEC/856), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2007 and the Report of the External Auditor.

Russian Federation (Annex 1), 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; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment), Ukraine (Annex 2), United States of America

Agenda item 4: DECISION REGARDING THE TIME, VENUE, THEME,
AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR
THE SEVENTEENTH ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 857 (PC.DEC/857), the text of which is appended to this journal, regarding the time, venue, theme,

agenda and organizational modalities for the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum.

Greece, Ukraine (Annex 3), Turkey

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE 2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN
CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 851/Rev.1 (PC.DEC/851/Rev.1), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2008 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN
CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 858 (PC.DEC/858), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference.

Greece

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

None

Agenda item 8: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/139/08/Rev.1 OSCE+): Secretary General

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Parliamentary elections in Austria, to be held on 28 September 2008: Austria (PC.DEL/657/08)*

(b) *Organizational matters: Russian Federation*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 31 July 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/723
24 July 2008
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

723rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has given its consent to the approval of the OSCE Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year 2007. We have taken note of the positive assessment delivered by the office of the Auditor General of Norway as regards the financial management of the OSCE.

At the same time, our consent to the approval of the decision of the Permanent Council does not mean that we are satisfied with the state of affairs in the financial and budgetary sphere of the OSCE. We consider that this area continues to be insufficiently transparent.

We are disappointed at the fact of the refusal by the external auditors to make available information in response to inquiries by participating States. This practice exists in the United Nations and in other international organizations and must be applied in the OSCE. Our requests that information be made available remain in force. We continue to be interested in acquainting ourselves with the auditors' reports.

The Russian Federation remains concerned at the situation in the area of extrabudgetary financing. It is precisely in this area that most of the violations in the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine uncovered in 2007 by the Office of Internal Oversight occurred. These violations were of a systemic nature. We are surprised that the external auditors' report has ignored them.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has consistently been in favour of reforming programme and budgetary planning and administrative and financial management in the OSCE and for placing them under the explicit oversight of the Organization's executive bodies.

We expect that these issues will be carefully scrutinized by the Permanent Council's Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/723
24 July 2008
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

723rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with today's adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2007 and the Report of the External Auditor, the delegation of Ukraine would like to state the following.

Ukraine highly appreciates the work done by the OSCE External Auditor (Office of the Norwegian Auditor General). We support its main conclusions regarding the state of the OSCE financial and management system. We also value highly the recommendations put forward by the External Auditor regarding the steps that should be taken in order to improve the functioning of the system.

At the same time, the delegation of Ukraine would like to express its strong interest in a more thorough examination of the irregularities that took place in the activities of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, in particular as reflected in the 2007 Annual Report of the Office of Internal Oversight. A deeper professional analysis of the reported facts could make a major contribution to obviating their consequences and preventing such irregularities in any of the OSCE executive structures in the future.

Having said this, we would like to encourage further deepening of co-operation between the OSCE External Auditor and the OSCE Office of Internal Oversight. As a host country, we also call for full transparency between the auditors, the audited field operations and the host governments.

To conclude, I once again thank the OSCE External Auditor (Office of the Norwegian Auditor General) for its highly professional and valuable work in the interests of the entire Organization.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/723
24 July 2008
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

723rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 4

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

With respect to the decision of the Permanent Council just adopted regarding the time, venue, theme, agenda and organizational modalities for the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum, the delegation of Ukraine would like to state the following.

We welcome the choice by the incoming Greek Chairmanship to devote the next Economic and Environmental Forum to the topic of migration. We regret, however, that our proposals that the draft decision include reference to the topics of human rights of migrants and environmentally induced migration were not reflected in the text.

We remain convinced that respect for human rights of migrants should continue to be an integral part of the topic of migration management. In this regard, we welcome the commitment expressed by the Greek delegation to give this issue due consideration in the course of the events in the framework of the Forum process. We are looking forward to a productive discussion on this matter, especially in the second segment of the Forum, which is to contain a review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments related to migration.

We also expect the Forum to remain seized of the issue of migration caused by the Chernobyl nuclear accident, taking into consideration the provisions of the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant of 2005 and of the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security of 2007, and we hope that the discussions will result in specific projects.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.



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

PC.DEC/851/Rev.1
24 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 851/Rev.1*
2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE**

Kabul, 9 and 10 November 2008

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the offer by Afghanistan to host a 2008 OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Further to the discussion in the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Taking into consideration the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to ensure the necessary security conditions,

1. Decides to hold the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference on the topic "Strengthening Co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation to Address Challenges to Security" in Kabul, on 9 and 10 November 2008;
2. Requests Afghanistan to provide the Permanent Council with regular updates on the security situation in the country;
3. This decision supersedes Permanent Council Decision No. 851 of 29 May 2008 on the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference.

* Revision of Permanent Council Decision No. 851 of 29 May 2008 on the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference to reflect the change of dates.



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

PC.DEC/855
24 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 855
**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE 2008 FOLLOW-UP OSCE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM: PARTNERSHIP OF
STATE AUTHORITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY IN COMBATING TERRORISM**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/07 on public-private partnerships in countering terrorism,

Taking into account its Decision No. 848 on the dates of the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism,

1. Approves the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the above-mentioned Conference contained in the annex to this decision;
2. Tasks the Secretary General, in co-ordination with the OSCE Chairmanship and OSCE institutions, to develop a detailed annotated agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism.

**2008 FOLLOW-UP OSCE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM: PARTNERSHIP OF
STATE AUTHORITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY IN COMBATING TERRORISM**

Vienna, 15 and 16 September 2008

I. Agenda and timetable

Monday, 15 September 2008

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Opening session: Welcoming remarks and general statements by delegations |
| 2.30–5.30 p.m. | Working session 1: Public-private partnerships with civil society and the media in countering terrorism and violent extremism |

Tuesday, 16 September 2008

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. | Working session 2: Public-private partnerships in protecting critical infrastructures and major events against terrorist attacks |
| 2–4 p.m. | Working session 3: Public-private partnerships in countering the financing of terrorism |
| 4.30–5.30 p.m. | Closing session: Overview of recommendations and suggestions from the Conference and closing remarks |

II. Organizational modalities

A representative of the Chairman-in-Office will chair the opening and closing sessions.

Each of the working sessions will have one moderator.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Conference. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) will be taken into account.

Simultaneous interpretation from and into all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at the opening, working and closing sessions.

The Secretary General will distribute a comprehensive report on the Conference.

The Press and Public Information Section (PPIS) will inform the press, as appropriate. The opening and closing sessions of the Conference will be open to the media.

III. Participation

The participating States are encouraged to be represented by senior officials as well as relevant experts responsible for co-ordination of counter-terrorism activities. Given the purpose of the Conference to build partnership among State authorities, civil society and the business community, national delegations may include representatives of governments, NGOs, academia/think-tanks, the legal community, and civil society; major media outlets; TV- and radio-broadcasting companies; Internet-related companies; and the business community, in particular major transport, financial/banking and energy companies.

The OSCE institutions will participate in the Conference, as will the Secretary General and the Secretariat. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate.

The United Nations and other international organizations involved in counter-terrorism activities will also be invited.

Guidelines for speakers

To facilitate discussion within time constraints, keynote presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes, and interventions/questions from the floor to five minutes.

In their contributions, the keynote speakers should set the scene for the discussion in the sessions and stimulate debate among delegations by raising appropriate questions and suggesting potential recommendations, and should concentrate on the highlights of their contributions in their presentations. Keynote speakers should be present during the entire session they are speaking to and should be ready to engage in the debate following their presentation.

To promote interactive discussion, formal statements and interventions in the working sessions should be as concise as possible and should not exceed five minutes. Prior circulation of statements and interventions will enhance the possibility for engaging in discussion.

Guidelines for moderators

The moderator chairs the session and should facilitate and focus the dialogue among delegations. The moderator should stimulate the debate by introducing items related to the subjects covered by the working session, as appropriate, in order to broaden or focus the scope of the discussion.

Personal views will not be advanced.

Guidelines on timing for submission and distribution of written contributions and factual information

By 1 September 2008, the keynote speakers should submit written contributions. International organizations are invited to submit in writing factual information on their organizations that would be useful for the participants. Such information should not be brought to the attention of participants during the Conference.

By 8 September 2008 in response to the information circular regarding organizational aspects of the Conference which will be sent out by the ATU, the participants in the Conference should inform the ATU, through their permanent missions to the OSCE in Vienna only, of the composition of their delegations.

By 10 September 2008, the participating States and other participants in the Conference are invited to submit any written contributions they may have.

Written contributions and factual information should be submitted to the ATU which will then distribute them.

**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 France on behalf of the European Union:

“The European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The European Union has joined consensus on this decision on the basis of its interpretation of the provisions on registration and participation, i.e. that, in accordance with the Helsinki principles and established practice, NGOs are not excluded from registering directly with the OSCE and participating in their own right in this conference.

We ask that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries Turkey, 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 Ukraine and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.”

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

PC.DEC/855
24 July 2008
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 the United States of America:

“The United States joins the large majority of OSCE participating States in noting its concern by attempts from other States to infringe on the ability of non-governmental organizations to fully participate in OSCE events. Moreover, we believe that the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism is unique in that its goal is to encourage partnerships between States and NGOs and that this in no way should be seen as setting a precedent for NGO participation at other OSCE events.”

PC.DEC/855
24July 2008
Attachment 3

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:

“On behalf of the delegations of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Canada, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, regarding the decision on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism. Our interpretation of paragraph 1 of Section III Participation is that, in accordance with the Helsinki principles and established practice, NGOs are not excluded from participating in their own right in this conference. We ask that this statement on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day.”

723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 856
FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007 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 2007 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/37/08 of 18 June 2008 and PC.ACMF/37/08/Add.1 of 8 July 2008),

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 2007;
2. Requests the Secretary General to establish and submit to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance not later than 31 October 2008 a work plan for follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor as reflected in its Report for 2007. 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 continuous review of the OSCE's systems of internal and external controls.

723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 857
REGARDING THE TIME, VENUE, THEME, AGENDA AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR THE SEVENTEENTH
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

19 and 20 January 2009 and 18 to 20 May 2009

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the Helsinki Document 1992, paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2 December 2003, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration of 6 December 2005, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006, the Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006 and the Ministerial Statement on Migration (MC.DOC/6/06) of 5 December 2006,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum,

Decides that:

1. The theme of the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”;
2. The Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be held over a period of five days, broken down as follows, and without setting a precedent for future Economic and Environmental Forums:
 - 2.1 On 19 and 20 January 2009 in Vienna;
 - 2.2 From 18 to 20 May 2009 in Athens;
3. The agendas of the two segments of the Forum would focus on the following topics: legal and illegal migration; the linkages and interaction between economic, social and environmental policies and migration; partnerships and inter-State co-operation in the area of

migration management, while overall paying due attention to the cross-dimensional aspects of migration;

4. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated in the second segment of the Economic and Environmental Forum, will address OSCE commitments related to migration and other relevant OSCE commitments referred to in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration of 6 December 2005;

5. Discussions of the Forum should benefit from input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two preparatory conferences outside of Vienna, organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities under the guidance of the 2009 OSCE Chairmanship, and deliberations in various international organizations;

6. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension;

7. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation of representatives from the business and scientific communities as well as other relevant actors of civil society in their delegations would be welcome;

8. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions;

9. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum:

Adriatic and Ionic Initiative; Asian Development Bank; Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Council of Europe; Economic Co-operation Organization; Eurasian Economic Community; European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Centre for Migration Policy Development; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Labour Organization; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Fund for Women; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Human Settlement Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; World Bank Group; World Customs Organization and other relevant organizations;

10. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

11. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

12. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

13. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both segments of the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Committee will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.



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

PC.DEC/858
24 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 858
AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE
2008 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE**

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 27 and 28 October 2008

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the offer by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference,

Further to the discussion in the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to hold the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on the topic “The OSCE approach to regional security — a model for the Mediterranean” in Amman, Jordan, on 27 and 28 October 2008.

Adopts the agenda and organizational modalities of the Conference, as contained in the annex.

**AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE OSCE 2008 MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON THE OSCE
APPROACH TO REGIONAL SECURITY — A MODEL FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 27 and 28 October 2008

I. Indicative agenda

Monday, 27 October 2008

8.30–9.15 a.m. Registration of participants

9.15–10 a.m. Opening ceremony

Chairperson: Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

- Representative of the host country
- Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Representative of the Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation
- Secretary General of the OSCE

10–10.30 a.m. Coffee break

10.30 a.m.–12.45 p.m. Session 1: Politico-military aspects of security

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Furthering co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in countering terrorism, including the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism (Vienna, 15 and 16 September 2008);
- The OSCE experience on CSBMs — relevance and opportunities for the Mediterranean region.

Speakers
Discussion
Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

12.45–3 p.m.

Lunch

3–5.30 p.m.

Session 2: Linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Promoting co-operation and dialogue in the Mediterranean region on managing water scarcity and combating land degradation, desertification and soil contamination in the Mediterranean region;
- Assessing the environmental impact of economic activities in the Mediterranean region, including the loss of livelihoods and enhancing border management co-operation.

Speakers
Discussion
Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

9.30–11.30 a.m.

Session 3: The OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Applying OSCE commitments on combating intolerance and discrimination to promote mutual respect and understanding;
- Inter-cultural dialogue, including as a conflict prevention tool in the Mediterranean region;

- National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights, with special focus on migrants;
- The role of civil society in supporting reforms, economic, social, and cultural development and the democratic process, exchange of views on the experience of the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Speakers
Discussion
Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

11.30 a.m.–12 noon

Coffee break

12 noon–1 p.m.

Concluding session

Chairperson: Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

Reports by session rapporteurs

Concluding statement by a representative of the host country

Concluding statement by a representative of the OSCE
Chairman-in-Office

1 p.m.

End of Conference

II. Participation

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) will participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Thailand) will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The following international organizations, institutions and initiatives will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference:

Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, African Development Bank, African Union, Central European Initiative, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Council of Europe, Economic Co-operation Organization, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment

Bank, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, Islamic Development Bank, League of Arab States, Mediterranean Forum, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, OPEC Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Regional Co-operation Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, South East European Co-operation Process, United Nations, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Bank.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

Other countries and organizations may be invited by the host country.

III. Organizational modalities

The Conference will begin at 9.15 a.m. (opening ceremony) on Monday, 27 October 2008, and end at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 28 October 2008.

The opening and closing sessions will be chaired by a representative of the Chairman-in-Office.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur appointed by the Chairperson. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council for further consideration.

Appropriate arrangements for press coverage will be made.

The working language will be English. At the request of several participating States interpretation will be provided from and into French. These arrangements will not constitute a precedent that can be relied upon in other circumstances.

On the eve of the Conference, a side event on “Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination” for Mediterranean NGOs will be held.

A report from the side event will be produced and presented by the Chairperson before the start of the third session.

Side event(s) will be chaired by a representative of an OSCE participating State or institution.

Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

Rooms for additional ad hoc meetings will be made available to participants. Such meetings will be held without interpretation.