

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
ON THE OSCE UNIFIED BUDGET 2009 CONSENSUS
757TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
2 APRIL 2009**

Madame Chairperson,

First we would like to thank the Greek Chairmanship for their lengthy efforts in order to reach an agreement on the 2009 Unified Budget. We are fully aware that this is, every year, a daunting and painful task, and as such, we appreciate the energy that the Chairmanship deployed to have this 2009 Unified Budget ready for approval today.

Canada joins consensus on the proposed 2009 Unified Budget.

We find the overall budget figures generally acceptable, but we have to highlight that the outcome concerning the OSCE Mission to Georgia is highly deplorable. There is a clear need for the continuation of the Mission's activities. We reiterate our support to the Greek Chairmanship efforts to find a solution and secure the continuation of OSCE operations in Georgia and as such, we remain open to restore appropriate funding to the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

We view positively the increased funding for activities in Central Asia, which match the OSCE's increased programming in the region and needs of host countries. Further, we appreciate the efforts to reduce funding elsewhere to better reflect real financial requirements.

However, we regret the outcome concerning ODIHR's staff positions that were under debate. We note with disappointment positions taken by some Participating States that have resulted in the non-conversion or non-creation of certain positions which are key to OSCE core activities.

In particular, we want to express that throughout negotiations Canada never supported the non-conversion of the Legislative Analyst position and to remove the new position of Associate Editor. It is with lukewarm feelings that we join consensus on a budget which excludes these two positions. We expect that in 2010, there will be no opposition to these two positions being part of the Unified Budget Proposal.

We also regret that once again this year, there is no agreement on a new political officer seconded position in the Mission to Moldova. Conflict prevention and resolution is also a core activity of the OSCE.

To conclude, as the budget effective date is retroactively set to January 1st due to the inability of participating States to reach an agreement on the OSCE budget last December, we join consensus on the 2009 Unified Budget with the understanding that OSCE staff/personnel will not, in any manner or form, be penalized or subject to negative monetary adjustments as a result of this retroactive effective date. This is a fundamental principle of administrative and sound institutional justice.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.