
Chairmanship: Spain**692nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 13 December 2007

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. C. Sánchez de Boado y de la Válgoma

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Head of the Delegation of Japan to the OSCE, Mr. Akio Tanaka.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences to Algeria in connection with the terrorist acts in Algiers on 11 December 2007.

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *The initialling of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina:* Portugal-European Union (PC.DEL/1187/07), Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (b) *International Human Rights Day:* Portugal-European Union (PC.DEL/1186/07), United States of America (PC.DEL/1183/07), Turkey (SEC.DEL/197/07)
- (c) *European Day against the Death Penalty:* Portugal-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 Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1185/07)
- (d) *Extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:* Albania (PC.DEL/1184/07)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF
REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 824 (PC.DEC/824), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the terms of reference of the Audit Committee.

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 825 (PC.DEC/825), the text of which is appended to this journal, on amending OSCE staff regulations.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE CENTRE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 826 (PC.DEC/826), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe.

Portugal-European Union (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

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

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

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/238/07 OSCE+)
- (b) *Move of the OSCE Secretariat and the Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Wallnerstrasse premises:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/238/07 OSCE+), United States of America

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report on the early Parliamentary elections in Turkey, held on 22 July 2007:* Turkey (PC.DEL/1188/07)

- (b) *Abolition of the death penalty in Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan*
- (c) *Presidential elections, to be held in Cyprus on 17 February 2008: Cyprus*
- (d) *Organizational matters: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 21 December 2007, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/824
13 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

692nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 692, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 824
EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 656 of 30 December 2004 on the establishment of an Audit Committee,

Noting that the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee as contained in Annex 1 to Permanent Council Decision No. 656 are effective for three years,

Decides that these Terms of Reference will remain in effect until 31 December 2010.



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

PC.DEC/825
13 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

692nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 692, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 825
AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of Staff Regulation 11.01,

Takes note of the proposed amendments to the Staff Rules circulated by the Secretariat on 10 December 2007, SEC.GAL/151/07/Rev.2,

Approves the attached amendments to OSCE Staff Regulation 6.02 on OSCE Health Insurance Scheme, Regulation 6.03 on OSCE Provident Fund, Regulation 7.04 on Special Leave, Regulation 7.06 on Maternity and Adoption Leave and Regulation 5.04 on Salary Increments.

AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS

CURRENT	AMENDED
<p>Regulation 5.04 Salary Increments</p> <p>(a) Fixed-term contracted staff/mission members shall, as a rule, be appointed at step one of the salary scale. Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, the competent authority for appointment under Regulations 3.03, 3.04 and 3.05 may exceptionally approve the appointment at a higher step.</p> <p>(b) A periodic salary increment shall be awarded to fixed-term contracted staff/mission members in accordance with the Staff Rules, on the basis of satisfactory performance as reflected in appraisal reports pursuant to Regulation 3.11.</p> <p>Regulation 6.02 OSCE Health Insurance Scheme</p> <p>(a) Contracted OSCE officials shall participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme, unless they are authorized by the Secretary General to continue participation in the health insurance scheme in which they participated before their appointments with the OSCE.</p> <p>(b) The OSCE shall contribute 50 per cent of the cost of health insurance for eligible OSCE officials who participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme. The OSCE shall also contribute 50 per cent of the cost for their eligible dependents. If an OSCE official is authorized to participate in a health insurance scheme, other than the OSCE's or a national scheme, the OSCE shall contribute either 50 per cent of the cost of the other scheme or 50 per cent of the cost of the OSCE scheme, whichever is the lower.</p> <p>(c) The OSCE shall not contribute to a</p>	<p>Regulation 5.04 Salary Increments</p> <p>(a) Fixed-term contracted staff/mission members shall, as a rule, be appointed at step one of the salary scale. Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, the competent authority for appointment under Regulations 3.03, 3.04 and 3.05 may exceptionally approve the appointment at a higher step.</p> <p>(b) A periodic salary increment shall be awarded to fixed-term contracted staff/mission members in accordance with the Staff Rules, on the basis of satisfactory performance as reflected in appraisal reports pursuant to Regulation 3.10.</p> <p>Regulation 6.02 OSCE Health Insurance Scheme</p> <p>(a) Contracted OSCE officials shall participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme, unless they are authorized by the Secretary General to participate in any other health insurance scheme. In case the official concerned opts for any other health insurance scheme, the OSCE shall contribute the employer's share of either the other scheme or the OSCE health insurance scheme, whichever is lower. Participation in another health insurance scheme shall be further regulated under the Staff Rule 6.02.2.</p> <p>(b) The OSCE shall contribute 50 per cent of the cost of health insurance for eligible OSCE officials who participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme. The OSCE shall also contribute 50 per cent of the cost for their eligible dependents.</p> <p>(c) The OSCE shall not contribute to a supplementary health insurance scheme.</p>

AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS (continued)

CURRENT	AMENDED
<p>supplementary health insurance scheme.</p> <p>(d) Seconded OSCE officials shall provide the OSCE with evidence that they have an appropriate and sufficient health insurance coverage. Should they wish to participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme, they shall contribute to it at their own expense.</p>	<p>(d) Seconded OSCE officials shall provide the OSCE with evidence that they have an appropriate and sufficient health insurance coverage. Should they wish to participate in the OSCE health insurance scheme, they shall contribute to it at their own expense.</p> <p>(e) Full contributions of seconded OSCE officials to the OSCE health insurance scheme for themselves and, as the case may be, for their spouse and children under Rule 6.02. shall be deducted from their Boarding and Lodging Allowances, unless otherwise provided in the arrangements made with seconding countries.</p>
<p>Regulation 6.03 OSCE Provident Fund</p>	<p>Regulation 6.03 OSCE Provident Fund</p>
<p>(a) Fixed-term contracted OSCE officials shall participate in the OSCE Provident Fund, unless they are authorized by the Secretary General to continue participation in the pension insurance scheme in which they participated before their appointments with the OSCE. In case the official concerned opts for continuation in a pension insurance scheme other than a national scheme one, the OSCE shall contribute the employer's share of either the other scheme or the OSCE Provident Fund, whichever is lower.</p>	<p>(a) Fixed-term contracted OSCE officials shall participate in the OSCE Provident Fund, unless they are authorized by the Secretary General to participate in any other pension insurance scheme. In case the official concerned opts for any other pension insurance scheme, the OSCE shall contribute the employer's share of either the other scheme or the OSCE Provident Fund, whichever is lower. Participation in another pension insurance scheme shall be further regulated under the Staff Rule 6.03.2.</p>
<p>(b) The OSCE shall contribute an amount of 15 per cent and the OSCE official 7.5 per cent of the OSCE official's net base salary, including post adjustment, if applicable, for the account of any OSCE official participating in the Provident Fund of the OSCE.</p>	<p>(b) The OSCE shall contribute an amount of 15 per cent and the OSCE Official 7.5 per cent of the OSCE official's net base salary, including post adjustment, if applicable, for the account of any OSCE official participating in the Provident Fund of the OSCE.</p>
<p>(c) OSCE Provident Fund benefits shall be paid in accordance with the Staff Rules.</p>	<p>(c) OSCE Provident Fund benefits shall be paid in accordance with the Staff Rules.</p>

AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS (continued)

CURRENT	AMENDED
<p>Regulation 7.04 Special Leave</p> <p>(a) OSCE officials shall be entitled to special leave on full or partial pay or without pay, for the following reasons:</p> <p>(i) Marriage of the OSCE official: two days;</p> <p>(ii) Paternity leave: four days;</p> <p>(iii) Death of spouse/child/parent/sibling: four days;</p> <p>(iv) Death of a parent-in-law: two days.</p> <p>(b) Special leave for reasons other than those mentioned in (a) above may be granted, on full or partial pay or without pay, for exceptional reasons and in the interest of the OSCE, and, in the case of seconded staff/mission members, where their national legislation so provides, in accordance with the conditions specified in the Staff Rules.</p> <p>(c) International fixed-term mission members serving in duty stations where extreme hardship or hazardous conditions prevail, may be granted rest and recuperation leave under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules.</p>	<p>Regulation 7.04 Special Leave</p> <p>(a) OSCE officials shall be entitled to special leave on full pay, without charging to existing annual leave balances, for the following reasons:</p> <p>(i) Marriage of the OSCE official: two days;</p> <p>(ii) Death of spouse/child/parent/parent-in-law/sibling: four days;</p> <p>(b) Whenever OSCE officials have to travel for the purposes of special leave defined in (a) above, they shall be granted additional days-off either as annual leave or leave without pay sufficient to undertake a return journey.</p> <p>(c) Special leave for reasons other than those mentioned in (a) above may be granted for exceptional reasons and in the interest of the OSCE, and, in the case of seconded staff/mission members, where their national legislation so provides, in accordance with the conditions specified in the Staff Rules.</p> <p>(d) International fixed-term mission members serving in duty stations where extreme hardship or hazardous conditions prevail, may be granted rest and recuperation leave under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules.</p>
<p>Regulation 7.06 Maternity and Adoption Leave</p> <p>(a) Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, female OSCE officials shall be entitled to maternity leave of sixteen consecutive weeks. This period may be extended by two weeks in the event of a multiple birth.</p>	<p>Regulation 7.06 Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave</p> <p>(a) Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, female OSCE officials shall be entitled to maternity leave of sixteen consecutive weeks. This period may be extended by two weeks in the event of a multiple birth.</p>

AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS (continued)

CURRENT	AMENDED
(b) Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, OSCE officials shall be entitled to adoption leave.	(b) Under the conditions specified in the Staff Rules, OSCE officials shall be entitled to paternity and adoption leave.



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

PC.DEC/826
13 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

692nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 692, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 826
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE CENTRE IN DUSHANBE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe until 30 June 2008.

PC.DEC/826
13 December 2007
Attachment

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 Portugal:

“Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the EU I would like to make the following interpretative statement to be attached to the journal of the day:

In supporting the decision to extend the mandate of the Centre in Dushanbe for six months the EU would like to emphasize a couple of points.

First, the EU welcomes the commitment of the government of Tajikistan to its OSCE Mission. We support the expansion of the work of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe across all three dimensions. Secondly, we note that the government of Tajikistan wishes to renegotiate the Mandate of the Centre of Dushanbe. We believe that this could still have been done within the framework of a one year extension.

Generally the EU believes that OSCE field missions should be subject to annual mandates other than in the most exceptional circumstances where very specific reasons exist for a shorter mandate.”