

Chairmanship: Ireland

932nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 22 November 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Suspended: 1 p.m.

Resumed: 3.10 p.m.

Closed: 3.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. O’Leary
 Ms. M. Feeney

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson informed the Permanent Council that the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 21 November 2012 (Annex 1), had announced the adoption, through a silence procedure, of the Ministerial Council decision on the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE (see MC.DEC/2/12, the text of which is appended to this journal).

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

The Chairperson, Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1080/12/Corr.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/1069/12), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1093/12), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/1083/12), Turkey (PC.DEL/1086/12), Belarus (PC.DEL/1090/12), Canada (PC.DEL/1087/12 OSCE+) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly welcomed Mongolia as a new participating State of the OSCE. Mongolia (PC.DEL/1091/12) took the floor to thank the delegations.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF ANDORRA, H.E. GILBERT SABOYA SUNYE

Chairperson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra (PC.DEL/1092/12), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1079/12/Corr.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/1070/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1097/12), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1084/12), San Marino (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Monaco) (PC.DEL/1082/12), Albania (PC.DEL/1078/12), Turkey (PC.DEL/1074/12), Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1076/12), Azerbaijan

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON
NATIONAL MINORITIES

Chairperson, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/5/12 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1068/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/1071/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1098/12 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1085/12), Norway (PC.DEL/1094/12 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1088/12 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/1103/12 OSCE+), Moldova (PC.DEL/1095/12), Ukraine, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Annex 2), Kyrgyzstan, Georgia (PC.DEL/1104/12), Azerbaijan, Latvia, Armenia

Agenda item 3: OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE

Chairperson, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1075/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/1077/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1099/12 OSCE+), Turkey, Canada, Ukraine

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

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

Organizational modalities related to the Nineteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (MC.INF/12/12 OSCE+): Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: (SEC.GAL/226/12 OSCE+):* Secretary General
- (b) *Visit by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 12 to 14 November 2012:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/226/12 OSCE+)
- (c) *Fifth Annual Interregional Workshop on sharing practices among source, transit and destination countries in adjudication of human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases, held in Ashgabat on 20 and 21 November 2012:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/226/12 OSCE+)
- (d) *Upcoming visits by the Secretary General to Brussels and London:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/226/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Parliamentary elections in San Marino, held on 11 November 2012:* San Marino (PC.DEL/1081/12)
- (b) *Third Conference of the European Border Dialogues, held in Chisinau on 20 and 21 November 2012:* Moldova (PC.DEL/1096/12), Norway
- (c) *Presidential elections in Cyprus, to be held on 17 February 2013:* Cyprus (PC.DEL/1089/12)
- (d) *Call for nomination of candidates for the OSCE Panel of Adjudicators (CIO.GAL/114/12 Restr.) (CIO.GAL/142/12/Corr.1 Restr.):* Chairperson
- (e) *Draft decision on the timetable and organizational modalities of the Nineteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 November 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/932
22 November 2012
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

932nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 932, Point 2

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Dublin, 21 November 2012

Dear Colleague,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE (MC.DD/1/12/Rev.2), expiring on 20 November 2012, at midnight CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Nineteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the Permanent Council meeting on 22 November 2012.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretative statement or a formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Eamon Gilmore T.D.
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

PC.JOUR/932
22 November 2012
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

932nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 932, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to warmly welcome the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities, H.E. Knut Vollebaek, and thank him for the comprehensive presentation of his work, including the recently launched Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies.

The Republic of Macedonia greatly values the engagement of High Commissioner Vollebaek in advancing the interethnic dialogue and tolerance within the OSCE region and finds the Ljubljana Guidelines to be a unique compendium of accumulated knowledge and experience. We fully agree that, despite all the differences, all the OSCE participating States share a common feature – their multiethnic character – and that cohesion is one of the preconditions for long-term stability. We are thankful to the High Commissioner for the constant contribution that he and his able team are providing to the participating States and we see the Ljubljana Guidelines as a useful document that could be of tremendous help in efficiently addressing and understanding future emerging challenges.

The Office of the HCNM can be proud of its achievement in the last two decades, and we are looking forward to deliberating together on these important topics in The Hague, in March of next year, at the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of this institution.

The Republic of Macedonia closely co-operates with all the OSCE's institutions, including the High Commissioner for National Minorities. His support, experience and tireless efforts and dedication to helping the Government implement the necessary reforms for further democratization of Macedonian multi-ethnic society are much appreciated.

We are grateful for the reports on the High Commissioner's recent trips, including the part dedicated to my country. While I understand your concerns, High Commissioner Vollebaek, I believe that the assessment you made regarding the increasing division along ethnic lines in Macedonia is probably too strong. We are convinced that terms such as polarization, parallel societies and zero sum games do not fairly reflect the landscape of our

Macedonian multi-ethnic society. On the other hand, we are fully aware, indeed, of the need to increase our society's cohesion, and we are working hard to achieve that goal.

The Macedonian multi-ethnic society and the institutions of the system through these last 11 years of implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) have proved many times that they have the capacity to handle challenges of a different nature. This can be attributed in large measure to the context of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and it is not a coincidence that attention was called to the importance of this context in the very first sentences of the OFA. The overall social energy has been focusing on integration, and any future advancement in integration will further restrict the space for the growth of radical agendas.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia pays particular attention to the education and integration of the ethnic communities in the country. Its Strategy for Integrated Education includes activities to promote the learning of languages spoken in the country and aims to contribute to increased interethnic interaction among the students. Implementation of the Programme for Promotion, Co-ordination and Monitoring of the Integrated Education System 2011–2013 is ongoing, and steps are being taken for the advancement of the learning of the languages of smaller communities. Some of the schools throughout Macedonia already have introduced related activities, as in the case of the school in Jegunovce, which serves as a very positive example.

We fully agree with the High Commissioner's earlier assessment that, in order to build a successful multi-ethnic State, much more is needed than integrated education alone, and in this context, we point out that the Ohrid Framework Agreement is not only an instrument that serves to overcome the crisis in 2001, but also provides a foundation for building a joint future.

The Government recently adopted a Report on Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which reflects the overall progress achieved in regard to all the issues covered by the Agreement, while also serving as a useful tool for future efforts and activities, in particular in the field of equitable representation of all ethnic communities, use of minority languages and implementation of the OFA at the local level.

Our own experience shows that, even when particular tensions appear (which we never underestimate), they are always overcome precisely as a result of the common commitment and dedication to a joint future for all the ethnicities in Macedonia. In searching for a solution to the existing and possible future challenges, we gained an insight into the importance of creating enough space for efficient and undisturbed implementation of the reforms. The Government and the State institutions are working to their full capacity, and various challenges and the differing standpoints of political parties, as serious as they may appear, do not have enough potential to provoke destabilization of interethnic relations in Macedonia.

The main idea behind the High-Level Accession Dialogue, namely, to bring new, positive dynamics into Macedonia's EU integration, has already been realized. After the fourth reinforced recommendation in a row by the European Commission that accession

negotiations should finally start, we expect that the EU Council in December will determine the date of on that this will happen. The start of the accession negotiations of the Republic of Macedonia with the EU would preserve the credibility of the enlargement process itself, but at the same time, it would secure our process of EU integration.

Needless to say, the start of the accession negotiations would have a positive impact on the momentum towards reform and on the Macedonian multi-ethnic society, further encouraging the reform efforts.

Once again, we wish to express our great appreciation to the High Commissioner and his able team, and to stress that we are looking forward to continuing our fruitful co-operation.

I kindly request that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

MC.DEC/2/12
21 November 2012

Original: ENGLISH

DECISION No. 2/12 ACCESSION OF MONGOLIA TO THE OSCE

The Ministerial Council,

Following the receipt of the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (CIO.GAL/213/11 of 28 October 2011) in which Mongolia expressed its willingness to join the OSCE as a participating State and its acceptance of all commitments and responsibilities contained in OSCE documents, and of the addendum from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (PC.DEL/780/12 of 7 August 2012) in which Mongolia articulates its responsibilities – specifically with regard to the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures,

With reference to Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/11 of 7 December 2011 on the application of Mongolia to become a participating State and to the Chairmanship's report on this matter (CIO.GAL/82/12 of 4 July 2012),

Welcomes Mongolia as a participating State of the OSCE on the understanding that the zone of application for CSBMs as defined in Annex I to the Vienna Document will not extend to Mongolia's territory, unless the Ministerial Council determines otherwise, and in that regard, Vienna Document commitments that apply only to the zone of application will apply to any Mongolian forces in the zone but not to the territory of Mongolia.

MC.DEC/2/12
21 November 2012
Attachment

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 Russian Federation:

“First of all, we should like to congratulate Mongolia in its capacity as a fully fledged participating State of the OSCE. We hope that this new status will allow Mongolia, which we regard as a friend, to be more actively involved in the collective efforts to promote a common and indivisible security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok in line with the OSCE Astana Summit decisions.

We joined the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the admission of Mongolia to the OSCE, in which it was confirmed that the zone of application for confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in the military sphere will remain unchanged, i.e., as defined in Annex I to the Vienna Document. Accordingly, the aforementioned CSBMs will not extend to the territory of Mongolia, as stated in this Ministerial Council decision.

At the same time, we note the need for strict compliance in the future with the mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation in the preparation of decisions affecting its competence, including those concerning the application of CSBMs.

We also take the position that the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE as a State that does not fall within the geographical zone of responsibility of the CSCE/OSCE defined by the Helsinki Final Act is an exceptional case. The OSCE's status as ‘a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations’, whose main purpose is to support the United Nations efforts to strengthen security and co-operation in Europe, should not be changed. In this connection, the adoption of the decision on the admission of Mongolia cannot be regarded as setting a precedent for other OSCE Partners for Co-operation and other States that are not participating States of the OSCE.

In the light of the above, we support the Chairmanship's proposal to initiate a discussion within an informal working group on the elaboration of criteria for the participation and admission to the OSCE of new participants.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin.”