

Chairmanship: Albania

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1293rd Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2020 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 2.35 p.m.

Closed: 2.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. E. Dobrush

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE 2020 BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR THE
OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1385 (PC.DEC/1385) on the 2020 budget transfers for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada, Norway and Switzerland)
(interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation
(interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision),
Germany-European Union (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the
decision)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.DEC/1385
2 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1293rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1293, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 1385
**2020 BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 1369 of 28 May 2020 on the approval of the 2020 Unified Budget,

Taking note of the additional requirements identified under PC.ACMF/105/20/Rev.1 of 30 November 2020, for activities of the ODIHR Elections Programme,

Taking note of the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in unprecedented underspending,

Decides to:

Approve, on a one time exceptional basis, the budget transfers as contained in the PC.ACMF/105/20/Rev.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.02(a) and as contained in the attached annex.

REVISION OF THE 2020 UNIFIED BUDGET

Fund	2020	Transfers	Revised	Proposed Transfers		Proposed
Main Programme	Approved	as per Fin.	Budget	Increases/(Decreases)		Revised
Programme	Budget	Reg	after	as per Fin. Reg.		Budget
		3.02(b)	Transfers	3.02(a)(ii)	3.02(a)(iv)	
<u>FUNDS RELATED TO INSTITUTIONS</u>						
<u>Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights</u>						
Direction and Policy	1,294,600	0	1,294,600	0	0	1,294,600
Fund Administration Unit	2,970,700	-179,000	2,791,700	0	0	2,791,700
Human Dimension						
Meetings	603,000	0	603,000	0	0	603,000
Democratization	1,580,300	-60,000	1,520,300	0	0	1,520,300
Human Rights	1,232,200	-91,000	1,141,200	0	0	1,141,200
Elections	6,505,200	471,800	6,977,000	108,300	74,700	7,160,000
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination	1,418,200	-141,800	1,276,400	0	-74,700	1,201,700
Roma and Sinti Issues	555,700	0	555,700	0	0	555,700
Total	16,159,900	0	16,159,900	108,300	0	16,268,200
<u>High Commissioner on National Minorities</u>						
Fund Administration Unit	526,400	52,000	578,400	0	0	578,400
Office of the High Commissioner	2,977,600	-52,000	2,925,600	-54,200	0	2,871,400
Total	3,504,000	0	3,504,000	-54,200	0	3,449,800
<u>Representative on Freedom of the Media</u>						
Freedom of the Media	1,608,800	0	1,608,800	-54,100	0	1,554,700
Total	1,608,800	0	1,608,800	-54,100	0	1,554,700
TOTAL INSTITUTIONS	21,272,700	0	21,272,700	0	0	21,272,700

PC.DEC/1385
2 December 2020
Attachment 1

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 Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada, Norway and Switzerland):

“I am making this statement on behalf of Canada, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

We are, reluctantly, joining consensus, to ensure that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights’ (ODIHR) election observation missions can go ahead as planned.

We do, however, have grave concerns about the funding approach that is being taken on this occasion and we stress that any such decision in the future be immediately returned to using cash surplus, as is the usual practice.

We reiterate that the ODIHR should receive sufficient funding for election observation needs in the OSCE’s Unified Budget.

In joining consensus, we are doing so in the context of the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented one-time availability of funds outside of the cash surplus, and to enable the ODIHR to meet the request to observe elections in the Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Kazakhstan.

We request that this statement be appended to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1385
2 December 2020
Attachment 2

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:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the 2020 budget transfers for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Russian Federation notes the following.

The adopted decision is based on the powers of the Permanent Council as set out in Financial Regulation 3.02. In that regard, we see no reason to consider the transfer of funds within the framework of the OSCE Unified Budget between main programmes and funds an ‘extraordinary event’. We regard statements to the effect that such a decision ‘must not set a precedent for the future’ as groundless.

We regret that the ODIHR has once again demonstrated a lack of will to cover its programmatic needs within the framework of the resources available. We are convinced that opportunities exist for cost optimization and cost-cutting, especially in the Elections Programme. We intend to return to this matter during the discussions on the draft 2021 OSCE Unified Budget.

We reiterate the call that we have made on numerous occasions in the past for the Office to develop uniform rules for election observation agreed with all OSCE participating States. The absence of a consensus-based election monitoring methodology leads to reduced transparency in the formulation of the ODIHR’s budget requests and to an inflation of its allocated funds, which does not allow an adequate assessment of its real needs in terms of resources. This situation needs to be urgently rectified.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and the journal of the day.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

The delegation of Germany, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The European Union Member States wish to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In joining consensus on this decision to use underspending in the funds of the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media from the 2020 Unified Budget to augment the budget for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in order to allow for the proper execution of electoral observation in both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the European Union Member States want to underline the exceptional nature of this decision. It is only because there is a large amount of underspending throughout the OSCE, as a consequence of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that such a transfer of funds between the autonomous institutions was made possible. Under no circumstance will the European Union Member States accept this decision as a precedence for a similar budgetary transfer in the future.

We reiterate our full support for ODIHR’s election observation work. As we have stated on numerous occasions, it is essential that the ODIHR is sufficiently resourced and staffed to fulfil its mandate, that includes undertaking all election observation demands from the participating States, be they expected or unexpected.

The same applies to the budgets of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner for National Minorities.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”