



Second day of the Thirty-First Meeting
MC(31) Journal, Agenda item 7

DECISION No. 2/24
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its third meeting in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 on the role of the OSCE Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 of 5 December 2006 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/08 of 22 October 2008 on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General,

Reaffirming the necessity that the OSCE Secretary General carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE Secretary General,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/23 the term of office of the Secretary General of the OSCE, Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, came to an end on 3 September 2024,

Decides to appoint Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu as Secretary General of the OSCE for three years with effect from 6 December 2024.

MC.DEC/2/24
6 December 2024
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 States of America:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. The United States welcomes the appointment of Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu. We support the work of the Secretary General and the OSCE Secretariat.

The Secretary General derives authority from the collective decisions of the participating States and acts under the guidance of the Chairperson-in-Office. He or she is the Chief Administrative Officer of the OSCE, and is tasked, among other things, to act as the representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and support him or her in all activities aimed at fulfilling the goals of the OSCE. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to alter the mandate of the Secretary General or restrict the work of the Secretary General in the full exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States regrets that participating States failed to adopt this decision before the previous Secretary General’s term expired on 3 September. We underscore that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments, and decisions. It is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/2/24
6 December 2024
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 Canada (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland):

“In relation to the decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada:

We reiterate our gratitude to Malta’s Chairmanship for their leadership in forging consensus on critical issues, thereby enhancing the OSCE’s effectiveness.

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu as Secretary General of the OSCE and we reiterate our commitment to the work of the Secretary General and the OSCE Secretariat.

We regret that consensus on the leadership of the Organization could not be reached earlier, leading to extended vacancies in these critical positions. This should not set a precedent for future similar decisions.

We reiterate the importance of co-operative decisions on the leadership of the Organization and the autonomous institutions that should be based on individual candidates and their ability to support OSCE principles and commitments. As participating States, we should avoid politicization of the consensus-based process and return to the spirit of multilateralism that guides our collaborative decision process.

Furthermore, we as participating States should strive to ensure gender equality in the leadership of the Organization, including by putting forward more women as candidates.

The Secretary General role is to be guided by Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04. We recall that the Secretary General derives his/her authority from the collective decisions of the participating States and acts under the guidance of the Chairperson-in-Office, and that as representative of the Chairperson-in-Office supports him/her in all activities aimed at fulfilling the goals of the OSCE. We also recall that as Chief Administrative Officer of the OSCE the Secretary General is responsible to the Permanent Council for the efficient use of

the Organization's resources and, as head of the OSCE Secretariat, is responsible for its effective and efficient management.

We would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in 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**

By the delegation of Albania:

“Thank you, Chairperson,

The delegation of Albania would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General:

Albania joined the consensus on the appointments agreed at this Ministerial Council meeting for the positions of the OSCE Secretary General, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and wishes them success in carrying out their duties.

We reaffirm Albania’s long-standing and well-established commitment to security, co-operation, dialogue and multilateralism, which has been consistently demonstrated, both within and beyond the OSCE.

In light of the importance that Albania attaches to the OSCE and with a view to ensuring quality in its management, Albania put forward a high-profile candidate for the position of the OSCE Secretary General.

We believe his unique and strong connection to the OSCE – serving throughout his career as Permanent Representative, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Director at the Secretariat, and Minister of Foreign Affairs – along with his distinguished professional experience and diplomatic expertise, made him precisely the right person for the assignment at this critical juncture for the Organization.

Albania’s candidate for OSCE Secretary General garnered clear and enthusiastic support from an overwhelming majority of participating States and faced no substantive objections. This was evident during numerous consultations, including his numerous personal engagements with delegations in Vienna, as well as in Preparatory Committee and informal ambassadorial meetings. To our understanding, this support remained unchanged throughout the process.

However, in an effort to overcome the stalemate and recognizing the importance of filling the senior management positions, Albania chose not to obstruct consensus on other candidates. This decision was made despite the significant influence of political considerations over merit-based principles in this process, which may have resulted in a decision that does not reflect the preferences of the majority.

It is Albania's firm belief that the OSCE executive structures are a shared asset of all 57 participating States. We remain convinced that greater inclusivity in senior roles, especially when based on the undeniable professional merits of candidates from smaller countries, would advance the Organization's interests and strengthen its sense of collective ownership.

We owe it to ourselves and to our people, including the more than 2,000 dedicated men and women that work for this Organization, not just to make decisions, but to make the right ones and deliver the right messages that reflect our values and drive the Organization forward.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many partners who supported us throughout this process, offering their trust, solidarity and principled backing. Your advocacy for fairness and equity reinforces our unwavering commitment to the values that underpin this Organization.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.

Thank you."

MC.DEC/2/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 4

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:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the approval of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United Kingdom joins the consensus on the appointment of Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu as Secretary General of the OSCE, and wishes him every success in the role. We offer the United Kingdom’s full support to the new Secretary General in taking forward his mandate. We continue to urge participating States to ensure all OSCE structures, autonomous institutions and field operations are adequately financed to fulfil their mandates.

We note that, alongside the appointments to other OSCE leadership positions, this decision supports the predictability and stability of the OSCE over the coming three years.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/2/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 5

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 Armenia:

“Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decisions on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

It is our conviction that while building consensus on the appointment of the ‘top four’ positions of the OSCE institutions, the participating States were driven by the best interests of this Organization, upholding the importance of preserving its functionality, integrity and the ability to continue the mandated work of the OSCE based on our common principles, as well as the letter and spirit of decisions adopted in this framework.

We further believe that the distinguished heads of institutions should be cognizant of this critical reality and during their tenure should act in accordance with it. In all their activities they should do their best within their mandates to only strengthen this collaborative attitude of the participating States that led to their appointment and that is vital for properly performing the OSCE’s mission in these most challenging times in a principled and inclusive manner.

Having this in mind, Armenia wishes all the best to the newly appointed heads of institutions in dispatching their important duties.

We kindly ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”