

**Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting  
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7****DECISION No. 1/20  
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 her functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE Secretary General,

Decides to appoint Ms. Helga Schmid as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 4 December 2020.

MC.DEC/1/20  
4 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 States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on 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 Helga Schmid. We support the work of the Secretary General and the OSCE Secretariat.

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. 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 exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments, and decisions, and 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, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/1/20  
4 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 on the decision of the OSCE Foreign Ministers to appoint Ms. Helga Schmid as the Secretary General of the OSCE, we should like to state the following.

The Russian Federation agreed to this decision on the basis of Ms. Schmid’s professional qualifications. In her position, we firmly expect her to act impartially in the interests of all and not of individual OSCE participating States or their groups, and not to follow national or bloc-based policies and priorities.

We are pleased that, for the first time in the history of the Organization, the participating States have adopted decisions that lead to a more balanced geographical representation in the leadership of the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of our Organization’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States. The movement towards achieving a fair geographical balance in the staffing structure of the Organization must continue.

We call on Ms. Schmid to pursue non-confrontational, consensus-based approaches in her activities, to promote a unifying agenda, and to strengthen the OSCE’s effectiveness in all three dimensions of security.

We draw attention to the need for the Secretary General and all Secretariat staff to strictly comply with Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 on OSCE statements and public information. In particular, it follows from the decision that formal positions of the Organization are expressed in decisions, statements and documents adopted by the decision-making bodies on the basis of consensus. Statements and public outreach activities by the heads of the OSCE field operations and institutions are to be made in line with their mandates and should not be inconsistent with OSCE consensus positions.

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