



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

MC.DEC/1/08
14 May 2008

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/08
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/06, the term of office of the currently Acting Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Christian Strohal, will expire on 30 June 2008,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Christian Strohal,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Janez Lenarčič as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2008.

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Attachment

ENGLISH
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**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 Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council decision concerning the appointment of Ambassador Janez Lenarčič to the post of Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), our delegation is authorized to make the following interpretative statement.

Having joined the consensus regarding the candidacy of Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, we recall the need to continue the reform of the OSCE ODIHR for the purposes of enhancing the transparency of its activities and strengthening its accountability to the OSCE’s collective bodies. We expect the Office’s new Director to make the relevant proposals and carry out the relevant actions, including those necessary for the full implementation of Decision No. 19/06, adopted at the Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels, in its section concerning the ODIHR. At the same time, we confirm our willingness to engage in constructive co-operation with the new Director of the ODIHR.

We believe that as a first priority the problems of introducing order in the area of election observations and the organization of the OSCE’s human dimension events should be solved. In particular, it is necessary to take specific steps to standardize the election observation procedures and convert them into uniform rules agreed on by all participating States, as well as to adjust the modalities for holding the OSCE’s human dimension events.

In this connection, we recall the proposals introduced by a number of participating States in 2007 concerning the adoption of ‘Basic principles for the organization of OSCE ODIHR observation of national elections’ and ‘Modalities of NGO participation in OSCE meetings’.

It is also important to continue the efforts to enhance the transparency of the ODIHR’s extrabudgetary financing. We take the position that the Office, in accordance with its mandate, is called upon to assist participating States in fulfilling commitments within the OSCE at their request, and not to foist such ‘assistance’ on them.

We stress that the ODIHR is a specialized institution of the OSCE and, as such, is accountable to all participating States. We regard as inadmissible any ODIHR activity that is

carried out without the approval of the OSCE's collective bodies or that circumvents its decisions.

We will structure our further co-operation with the ODIHR, and will also revise our position within the framework of the discussion of the Office's programme activities and budget, depending on the degree to which the Office's leadership takes into account in its activities the approaches set forth above.

I request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day."