

Chairmanship: Ukraine

963rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Friday, 26 July 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 10.20 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Prokopchuk

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2013 HUMAN
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1090 (PC.DEC/1090) on the agenda for the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (Annex), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE OFFICE IN YEREVAN

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1091 (PC.DEC/1091) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN
 BAKU

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1092 (PC.DEC/1092) on the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Switzerland (PC.DEL/728/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/726/13),
Azerbaijan

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 September 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/963
26 July 2013
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

963rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 963, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and its Member States welcome the adoption of the decision on the agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and commend the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship for its efforts to reach consensus.

It is very important to adopt agendas in a timely manner to allow the ODIHR sufficient preparation time and to attract high-quality and high-level participation by governments and civil society.

As is the case for all OSCE institutions, we attach high importance to the work of the HCNM and welcome the appointment of the new High Commissioner, Ms. Astrid Thors. The fact that the HDIM 2013 begins with her address is an acknowledgement of the work of this important OSCE institution and it will be an opportunity for the new High Commissioner to present her views on how she intends to implement her tasks, similar to 2007 when Ambassador Knut Vollebaek was appointed.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential to establishing the lasting order of peace, security, justice and co-operation. We believe that the HDIM should start with discussions on the implementation of our commitments relating to fundamental freedoms. It is not a matter of prioritizing some commitments over others, but of ensuring the efficiency of our discussion and the consistency of our recommendations throughout the HDIM with a view to fostering implementation of and further developing our OSCE commitments. We believe that this approach enhances our ability to thoroughly review all human dimension commitments.

Finally, we would like to note that agreement on a standing agenda would greatly improve the decision-making process and allow us to devote more time to substance rather than process. We look forward to engaging in further work on this matter.

Mr. Chairperson, we would kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

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- 1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
 - 2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and of the European Economic Area.



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

PC.DEC/1090
26 July 2013

Original: ENGLISH

963rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 963, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1090
AGENDA FOR THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph 9,

Recalling also its Decision No. 1076 (PC.DEC/1076) of 2 April 2013 on the dates for the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) and Decision No. 1077 (PC.DEC/1077) of 2 April 2013 on the topics for the second part of the 2013 HDIM,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

AGENDA FOR THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 23 September to 4 October 2013

Monday, 23 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Opening plenary session
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I:
- Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
 - National minorities;
 - Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism.

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2: Tolerance and non-discrimination II – Review of the implementation of commitments on promotion of mutual respect and understanding:
- Prevention and responses to hate crimes in the OSCE area;
 - Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions;
 - Combating anti-Semitism;
 - Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 3: Tolerance and non-discrimination II (continued):
- Equality of opportunity for women and men, including: Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
 - Prevention of violence against women and children.

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 4: Fundamental freedoms I, including:
- Freedom of expression, free media and information, including best practices for protection of journalists;
 - Address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 5: Fundamental freedoms II, including:
- Freedom of movement;
 - National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights;
 - Human rights education.

Thursday, 26 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working Session 6 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of religion or belief
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 7 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of religion or belief (continued)

Friday, 27 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 8 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of assembly and association
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of assembly and association (continued)

Monday, 30 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I:
- Combating trafficking in human beings – Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;
 - Citizenship and political rights.

Tuesday, 1 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12 (specifically selected topic): Democratic elections and election observation – sharing best practices
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13 (specifically selected topic): Democratic elections and election observation – sharing best practices (continued)

Wednesday, 2 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14: Rule of law I, including:
- Democratic lawmaking;
 - Independence of the judiciary;
 - Right to a fair trial.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15: Rule of law II, including:
- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment;
 - Prevention of torture;
 - Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism.

Thursday, 3 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II, including:
- Roma and Sinti issues, including: Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti;
 - Migrant workers, the integration of legal migrants;
 - Refugees and displaced persons;
 - Treatment of citizens of other participating States.
- 1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work), including:

- Presentation of activities of the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions and field operations to implement priorities and tasks contained in relevant OSCE decisions and other documents.

Friday, 4 October 2013

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the participation of human rights directors, OSCE ambassadors and heads of OSCE institutions):

- Any other business;
- Closing of the meeting.

PC.DEC/1090
26 July 2013
Attachment

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, Mr. Chairman.

I wish to express the appreciation of the United States for the Chair’s patient efforts to facilitate a compromise enabling participating States to reach consensus on the agenda for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) which will take place in Warsaw from 23 September to 4 October 2013.

As the Chairmanship has stated, this year is exceptional in that we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) as an institution. Moreover, we also have a new High Commissioner, Ms. Astrid Thors. And so, in a spirit of compromise, we agree as an exception to the standard order of discussion, to begin the first working session of the 2013 HDIM with a presentation by the newly appointed HCNM. We do so, however, despite deep reservations about the movement of discussions of fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region to later in the HDIM’s first week.

As we have underscored on numerous occasions, the United States believes that the fundamental freedoms enshrined in international instruments are the basis of all our human dimension commitments and the foundation of all of our work in the human dimension. Exercise of the fundamental freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, religion, and movement are closely intertwined. Where the exercise on line or off line of any fundamental freedom is impeded or denied, it is likely that the exercise of other fundamental freedoms also is obstructed. Without respect for fundamental freedoms, the human rights of members of minority groups may remain unprotected, the rule of law is compromised, independent media are stifled, accountability of government is hampered and democracy cannot thrive.

It is for this compelling reason that we have advocated starting each HDIM with the presentation by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on issues related to freedom of expression and followed closely by sessions devoted to the other fundamental freedoms. Precedent in doing so has been clearly established over the past five years, and this precedent should be respected in future HDIMs.

Our hope is that, with the contentious debate over the 2013 HDIM agenda behind us, we can work constructively on a standing agenda with fundamental freedoms at the forefront

that would guide future HDIMs and allow us to focus less attention on procedure and more on substance.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”



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

PC.DEC/1091
26 July 2013

Original: ENGLISH

963rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 963, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1091
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE OFFICE IN YEREVAN**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan until
31 December 2014.



963rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 963, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1092
OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN BAKU**

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the fruitful co-operation established between the OSCE and the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Acknowledging the willingness of the Republic of Azerbaijan to further continue co-operation with the OSCE and make further progress in implementing commitments and principles,

Appreciating the work done by the OSCE Office in Baku to assist the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in implementing OSCE commitments and principles,

Aiming at adapting the established co-operation mechanisms between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE to reflect the current state of affairs,

Decides to transform the OSCE Office in Baku, upon the expiration of its existing mandate on 31 December 2013, into an OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku, which will perform the following tasks:

- To support co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE and its institutions aimed at implementing OSCE principles and commitments;
- To carry out planning and implementation of projects between relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE and its institutions. Such projects will cover all three dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive security concept, taking into account the needs and priorities of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To that end to maintain contacts with governmental as well as non-governmental bodies, local authorities, universities, research institutions and NGOs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- To perform other tasks deemed appropriate by the Chairperson-in-Office or other OSCE institutions and agreed upon between the Government of the Republic Azerbaijan and the OSCE.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku will be headed by a Co-ordinator who will be based in Baku together with his/her international and local staff.

The Co-ordinator will provide regular progress reports to the OSCE Permanent Council. The content of such reports will be shared beforehand with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Modalities for the new form of co-operation based on this Permanent Council decision will be further elaborated in a separate Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE.

The mandate of the future OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku will enter into force on 1 January 2014 for an initial period of twelve months and with the possibility of subsequent extensions for one-year periods by mutual agreement between the OSCE and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The budgetary needs of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku will be decided in the framework of the regular yearly decision-making process and covered out of the Unified Budget of the OSCE as well as by possible voluntary contributions.