
Chairmanship: Finland**724th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 31 July 2008

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences to Turkey in connection with the terrorist attacks in Istanbul on 27 July 2008. The Council then observed a minute of silence. Turkey expressed its appreciation for the expression of condolences.

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 859 (PC.DEC/859), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference.

Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/687/08), United States of America, Canada, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2008 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 860 (PC.DEC/860), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the agenda for the 2008 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

France-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/685/08), Turkmenistan (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Chairperson, France-European Union (PC.DEL/686/08), United States of America, Turkey

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *The case of Kononov versus Latvia in the European Court of Human Rights: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/690/08 OSCE+), Latvia (PC.DEL/688/08)*
- (b) *Gathering of the veterans of the Twentieth Division of the Waffen SS in Sinimäe, Estonia, on 26 July 2008: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/691/08 OSCE+), Estonia (PC.DEL/692/08 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/118/08/Rev.1): Chairperson*
- (b) *Extension of the terms of office of two members of the Audit Committee (CIO.GAL/114/08 OSCE+): Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

None

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Outstanding assessed contributions (PC.ACMF/45/08 Restr.): Chairperson*
- (b) *Conference on Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking — Challenges and Good Practices, to be held in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September 2008: Chairperson*
- (c) *Adoption of a resolution by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on strengthening co-ordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in persons on 25 July 2008: Belarus (PC.DEL/689/08 OSCE+)*

- (d) *Video presentation on the Model OSCE conference, held in Vienna from 4 to 7 July 2008: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 4 September 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

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31 July 2008

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724th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 724, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 859
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE 2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE**

Kabul, Afghanistan, 9 and 10 November 2008

The Permanent Council,

Further to its Decision No. 851/Rev.1 to hold the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference on the topic “Strengthening Co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation to Address Challenges to Security” in Kabul, on 9 and 10 November 2008,

Taking into account the recommendations contained in its Decision No. 762 on guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings,

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference, as contained in the annex.

**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES
OF THE 2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE ON
STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
OSCE AND ITS ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION
TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES TO SECURITY**

Kabul, Afghanistan, 9 and 10 November 2008

**Co-hosted by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and
the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

I. Agenda

Sunday, 9 November 2008

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 9.30–10.15 a.m. | Opening session |
| | Co-chair: Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
Representative of the host country |
| | Opening addresses |
| | — Representative of the host country |
| | — Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office |
| | — Representative of the Chairmanship of the Contact
Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation |
| | — Secretary General of the OSCE |
| 10.15–10.30 a.m. | Break |
| 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. | Session 1: The OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the
OSCE region and the Asian Partners for Co-operation |
| | This session will focus on: |
| | — Promoting institution-building, election
capacity-building, respect for and enjoyment of human
rights and democratization as components for security
and stability; |
| | — The Partnership Fund as a tool to foster deeper relations
with the Partners for Co-operation; |

- The role of the OSCE in the follow-up to the June 2008 Paris International Conference in support of Afghanistan;
- The relevance of the OSCE human dimension commitments to security and stability in the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

12.30–2 p.m.

Break

2–5 p.m.

Session 2: Threats to the common security and stability of the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention to Central Asia and Afghanistan

This session will focus on:

- Follow-up to the July 2008 OSCE Expert Conference on International Co-operation to Combat Trafficking in Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors;
- Concrete mechanisms for increased engagement by the Asian Partners in countering terrorism and organized crime.

3.30–3.45 p.m.

Break

3.45–5 p.m.

Discussion (continued)

5 p.m.

End of the first day

Monday, 10 November 2008

9.30–11.15 a.m.

Session 3: Challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization

This session will focus on:

- Best practices in securing borders and streamlining border and customs procedures;
- Increasing State revenue through improved management of borders;
- Fighting corruption and illegal activities, including all forms of trafficking;

	—	Training initiatives in customs and border management.
11.15–11.45 a.m.		Break
11.45 a.m.–1 p.m.		Concluding session and closing remarks
	Co-chair:	Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Representative of the host country
	—	Rapporteurs' reports of sessions 1 to 3
	—	Chairpersons' summary
	—	Representative of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation
	—	Representative of the host country
1 p.m.		Closing of the Conference

II. Participation

The OSCE participating States are invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: Afghanistan National Development Strategy, Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation, Central European Initiative, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Council of Europe, Economic Co-operation Organization, Eurasian Economic Community, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Shanghai Co-operation Organization, United Nations, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Customs Organization and the World Bank.

Representatives of the members of the ARF may attend as guests of the host country. Other countries and organizations may also be invited by the host country.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

III. Timetable and other organizational modalities

The Conference will begin at 9.30 a.m. (opening session) on 9 November 2008 and end at 1 p.m. on 10 November 2008.

The opening and closing sessions will be chaired by a representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and a representative of the host country.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council.

Rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

The opening and closing sessions will be open to the media.

The Conference will be held in Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The working language will be English.



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

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31 July 2008

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724th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 724, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 860
AGENDA FOR THE 2008 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. 841 (PC.DEC/841) of 13 March 2008 on the dates for the 2008 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), and Decision No. 842 (PC.DEC/842) of 13 March 2008, on the topics for the second part of the 2008 HDIM,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2008 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

AGENDA FOR THE 2008 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 29 September to 10 October 2008

Monday, 29 September 2008

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Opening plenary session |
| 1–3 p.m. | Break |
| 3–6 p.m. | Working session 1: Rule of law I, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Legislative transparency;— Independence of the judiciary;— Right to a fair trial;— Follow-up to the 14–16 May 2008 Human Dimension Seminar on Constitutional Justice. |

Tuesday, 30 September 2008

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms I, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;— Freedom of expression, free media and information. |
| 1–3 p.m. | Break |
| 3–6 p.m. | Working session 3: Fundamental freedoms II, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Freedom of assembly and association;— Freedom of movement;— National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights. |

Wednesday, 1 October 2008

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Working session 4: 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.

1–3 p.m.

Break

3–6 p.m.

Working session 5: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:

- Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- National minorities;
- Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism;
- Follow up to the 29–30 May 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with a Special Focus on Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Migrants.

Thursday, 2 October 2008

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Working session 6: Tolerance and non-discrimination I (continued):

- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti;
- Follow up to the 10–11 July 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Sustainable Policies of Roma and Sinti Integration.

1–3 p.m.

Break

3–6 p.m.

Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:

- Equality of opportunity for women and men;
- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
- Prevention of violence against women.

Friday, 3 October 2008

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working Session 8 (specifically selected topic):
Education and awareness-raising in the promotion of
human rights
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic):
Education and awareness-raising in the promotion of
human rights (continued)

Monday, 6 October 2008

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination
II (continued):
- Review of the implementation of commitments,
promotion of mutual respect and understanding and
addressing hate crimes:
- 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 11: Humanitarian issues and other
commitments, including:
- Migrant workers, the integration of legal
migrants;
 - Refugees and displaced persons;
 - Treatment of citizens of other
participating States.

Tuesday, 7 October 2008

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12 (specifically selected topic):
Freedom of religion or belief

- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13 (specifically selected topic):
Freedom of religion or belief (continued)

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14 (specifically selected topic):
Focus on identification, assistance and access to justice
for the victims of trafficking
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15 (specifically selected topic):
Focus on identification, assistance and access to justice
for the victims of trafficking (continued)

Thursday, 9 October 2008

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: 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 the
OSCE decisions and other documents.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democratic elections;
 - Democracy at the national, regional and local
levels;
 - Citizenship and political rights.

Friday, 10 October 2008

- 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.

PC.DEC/860
31 July 2008
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 Turkmenistan:

“In connection with the decision adopted on the agenda of the 2008 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, we would like to make the following interpretative statement.

The delegation of Turkmenistan has joined the consensus on this decision in the firm belief that the Chairmanship, the ODIHR and the participating States will continue to work out a specific solutions to our specific concern.

The delegation of Turkmenistan understands that human right defenders have an important role in the work of this Organization and that dialogue between participating States and civil society is an important aspect in the implementation of OSCE commitments.

The delegation of Turkmenistan is seriously concerned about the fact that deficiencies in the registration process, lack of clear criteria and the inability to deal with clear cut problem cases has undermined trust in the human dimension implementation meetings.

Over the past five years, several individuals who committed terrorist act in Turkmenistan in November 2002 and were sentenced by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan have been able to participate in various human dimension implementation meetings under the cover of various NGOs that they have set up afterwards to whitewash their past and escape punishment. And this happened irrespective of the fact that these individuals ideally fit the single OSCE criteria for exclusion of NGOs and individuals from the OSCE events contained in the Helsinki Document of 1992 that stipulates that persons or organizations that commit or condone terrorism or violence cannot be invited to OSCE events.

The delegation of Turkmenistan consistently provided the necessary information on the crimes committed by these individuals and protested against their participation in OSCE events. To our great disappointment, this issue has received its due attention only after certain steps were undertaken by our delegation.

The delegation of Turkmenistan shall be watching very closely the forthcoming Warsaw meeting and, if these individuals shall appear again, the delegation of Turkmenistan reserves the right to take all necessary steps to prevent criminals from participating in our events, including the use of the right to join consensus on our future HDIM events.

During the last period, several participating States have asked for more time to deal with this issue and work out an acceptable way out of this situation. The Government of Turkmenistan in a spirit of co-operation agrees to that and appeals to use this time to approach this issue seriously because next time we may not only remain with a lack of appreciation for and resolution of our specific concerns but in addition to that with a lack of consensus and, more importantly, with a lack of good-will and co-operation.

For Turkmenistan, co-operation with the OSCE is important, and we will do everything not allow criminals to derail this co-operation.

We heard the appeal of the Chairmanship and the participating States and we now hope that the Chairmanship and the participating States shall hear our appeal as well.

We ask that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day.”