
Chairmanship: Finland**712th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 8 May 2008

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Chairperson, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PC.FR/11/08 OSCE+), Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/346/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/356/08), Russian Federation, Uzbekistan

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *Recent developments in relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation:* Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Azerbaijan and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/348/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/354/08), Canada (PC.DEL/358/08), Switzerland (PC.DEL/357/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/364/08 OSCE+), Georgia, Chairperson

(b) *Recent developments in Belarus:* Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/349/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/352/08), Canada (PC.DEL/359/08), Belarus

- (c) *Cyber attack against the Internet sites of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*: United States of America (PC.DEL/353/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/363/08 OSCE+), Armenia, Belarus, Chairperson
- (d) *Signing of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and an interim agreement between the European Union and Serbia*: Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/351/08), Norway (PC.DEL/365/08), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro), Serbia (PC.DEL/361/08 OSCE+)
- (e) *Death penalty in the United States of America*: Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/350/08), Uzbekistan, United States of America
- (f) *Report on the presidential elections held on 19 February 2008 and post-electoral developments by the Human Rights Defender (ombudsman) of Armenia*: Slovenia-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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/347/08), Armenia
- (g) *Freedom of religion in Kazakhstan*: United States of America (PC.DEL/355/08), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Slovenia-European Union
- (h) *Inauguration of Mr. Dmitry Medvedev as President of the Russian Federation*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/360/08 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 849 (PC.DEC/849), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the recommendation to appoint the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Turkey, Chairperson

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/70/08):* Chairperson
- (b) *Appointment of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (CIO.GAL/72/08 OSCE+):* Chairperson, Uzbekistan
- (c) *Appointment of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana (CIO.GAL/73/08 OSCE+):* Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/84/08 OSCE+):* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Kazakhstan, on 24 and 25 April 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/84/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *Visit of the Secretary General to Kyrgyzstan, on 26 April 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/84/08 OSCE+)
- (d) *Visit of the Secretary General to the Republic of Korea, on 28 and 29 April 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/84/08 OSCE+)
- (e) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 118th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg, France, on 7 May 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/84/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Vandalism of a monument to Soviet soldiers in Vienna:* Chairperson

- (b) *Transfer of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: Slovakia (Annex), Sweden*
- (c) *Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Kazakhstan*
- (d) *Fifteenth Summit of the Presidents of Central and Eastern European Countries, held in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 2 and 3 May 2008: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 15 May 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



712th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 712, Agenda item 6(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVAKIA

Mr. Chairperson,

As H.E. Ján Kubiš, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, officially handed over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE) to the Swedish Chairman yesterday, I would like to inform you briefly of the achievements of the Slovak Chairmanship, as the detailed activity report has already been distributed.

The Slovak Chairmanship was based on the protection and promotion of the core values of the organization, which resulted in the three main priorities:

- Promotion of a citizens' Europe;
- Transparency and efficiency of the CoE;
- Respect for and promotion of core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

We took many steps in the framework of our first priority, many of which were not promoted internationally, such as a public call for analysis by civil society of the co-operation of the non-governmental sector with government and international organizations. In this framework, among others, we organized two international conferences in Slovakia. The first one, which was governmental, focused on the topic of public ethics, and the second one, organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was exclusively dedicated to the dialogue of the Slovak non-governmental organizations with their international partners.

Within the second priority, "Transparency and efficiency of the CoE", in order to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the main international actors, Minister Kubiš, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, not only invited the EU to hold the next quadripartite meeting, but also addressed the OSCE and the UN. In the context of enhancing the co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE, Minister Kubiš addressed the Permanent Council on 28 February 2008.

Thematically, the Slovak Chairmanship covered various issues, including the four areas of co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE. For example, the tenth anniversaries of the entry into force of two important CoE legal instruments, namely the Framework

Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as well as Roma issues, were marked by international conferences that we organized in co-operation with the CoE, as well as other important partners, such as the Presidency of the EU and the OSCE Chairmanship.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the CoE Committee of Ministers, Minister Kubiš visited a number of the member States of the CoE and issued several statements on various topical questions. We tried to adopt a balanced approach in addressing those issues, with the aim of being a defender of the CoE's values and the interests of Europeans.

For this and for other good reasons, Slovakia has assessed as its future direction a commitment to continue its efforts and its hard work every day, instead of falling into a routine, as might occur once the time of the greatest importance has passed. That is also why we will particularly support and promote dialogue and interaction with representatives of the Government and civil society of Belarus. As it aspires to membership in the UN Human Rights Council, The Slovak Republic is also ready to provide its assistance and support in preparing and adopting the biennial resolution on the co-operation between the UN and the CoE.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me, please, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, to take this opportunity to thank you for the good co-operation in the past, and once again to express our support to the Swedish Chairmanship.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



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

PC.DEC/849
8 May 2008

Original: ENGLISH

712th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 712, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 849
RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Permanent Council,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/06, the term of office of the currently Acting Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Mr. Christian Strohal, will expire on 30 June 2008,

1. Requests the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairman-in-Office the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the appointment of the Director of the ODIHR as contained in document MC.DD/1/08/Rev.1 of 6 May 2008;
2. Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of this decision through a silence procedure with a period of silence expiring on 14 May 2008, at noon CET.