

Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 31 March 2009

Permanent Council No.757

EU Statement on the adoption of the Unified Budget 2009

The EU welcomes the adoption of the 2009 Unified Budget and wishes to thank the Greek Chairmanship for its tireless efforts that have led to this result.

As the main contributor as a whole to the OSCE Unified Budget, the EU deeply regrets that this year, once again, the participating States were not able to agree on the Unified Budget on time. The EU remains concerned about the consequences for the overall functioning of this Organisation.

The EU has also noted that the overall level of the 2009 Unified Budget is below the level of the 2008 Unified Budget, mainly due to non-extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. In this regard, the EU reiterates once again its full support to the Greek Chairmanship in its aim at finding a solution for keeping the valuable OSCE presence in Georgia.

The EU joined consensus on the 2009 Unified Budget proposal in a spirit of compromise, bearing in mind the need of this Organisation to be provided with sufficient resources to carry out its programmatic activities in line with the priorities set by the participating States. We will carefully assess

the consequences in 2009 of changes in resource allocation and will approach the next round of Unified Budget negotiations accordingly.

We look forward to playing an active part in further discussions this year, especially within the context of the Programme Outline exercise, among others on further prioritisation of the programmatic activities across the Organisation. We are also committed to supporting efforts of the Greek Chairmanship to address issues concerning management of this Organisation and to suggest further improvements.

Lastly, Mr./Ms. Chair, we would like to congratulate the Greek Chairmanship on the adoption of the 2009 Unified Budget. The EU wishes particularly to extend its warmest thanks to Despina Ipioti and her colleagues for their tireless efforts to bring this process to a successful conclusion. We also wish to express our thanks to the Secretariat, especially the Department of Management and Finance, and to all Fund Managers for their hard work on the budget.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, 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 and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.