

Second day of the Fourteenth Meeting
MC(14) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 17/06
IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security, covering the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, while recognizing the need for a cross-dimensional perspective, both in terms of conceptual approach and programme activities,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Panel of Eminent Persons for introducing a committee structure in order to make the consultative and decision-making process more participatory, interactive and transparent, involving all the participating States more actively and effectively, and for broadening the ownership of the participatory process,

Recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE,

Recognizing the need for improved consultations and dialogue, also with a view to preparing debates, conclusions and decisions in the Permanent Council,

Mindful of the desirability to avoid setting up working groups and to discourage the creation of additional bodies,

Desiring to enhance co-operation, to address new threats to security more effectively and to provide a comprehensive and more effective framework for political dialogue among all the participating States,

Decides to establish the following committees as informal subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council:

A Security Committee, which will perform the following tasks:

- Discuss non-military and political aspects of security, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;

- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to non-military aspects of security;
- Support the preparation of the Annual Security Review Conference, taking into account a contribution from the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and other relevant meetings;
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made at the above-mentioned meetings;

An Economic and Environmental Committee, which will subsume the existing Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council and will perform the following tasks, in addition to those set forth in Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue:

- Discuss economic and environmental issues, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;
- Support the preparation of the meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) and other meetings on economic and environmental issues;
- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to economic and environmental aspects of security;
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made by the EEF; and

A Human Dimension Committee, which will perform the following tasks:

- Discuss human dimension issues, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;
- Support the preparation of the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings and other human dimension meetings;
- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to the human dimension;
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made at the human dimension meetings;

Further decides that:

At the beginning of each year, the Chairmanship, in consultation with the participating States, will further clarify the tasks of the above-mentioned Committees and establish a work programme reflecting the objectives and priorities of the Organization, also

taking into account the need to ensure adequate coverage of the cross-dimensional issues under consideration.

The Advisory Committee on Management and Finance will continue to operate within its current mandate, as established in Permanent Council Decision No. 552.

The above-mentioned Committees will meet in an informal format and will report, provide advice, make recommendations and prepare relevant decisions for the Permanent Council through the Preparatory Committee. The relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, in particular Chapter V(A), will apply to the work of the Committees.

The Preparatory Committee may be convened by the Chairmanship on an *ad hoc* basis in order to address general and organizational matters relating to the Organization, including the preparation of Ministerial Council/Summit meetings. At the Preparatory Committee meetings, cross-dimensional issues may be addressed, as well as other issues not covered by the three newly established Committees, when in the assessment of the Chairmanship, in consultation with participating States, they merit debate in such a format.

As a rule, each Committee will meet at least once a month. At the initiative of the Chairmanship, or of the chairperson of the Committee, or at the request of one or more participating States, each Committee may meet as frequently as necessary, based on the need for consultations or the necessity to prepare for decision-making by the Permanent Council. The Chairmanship and chairpersons of the Committees will avoid convening meetings of informal subsidiary bodies simultaneously.

The Committees will examine issues within their competence at the request of the Chairmanship, the Permanent Council or one or more participating States.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 of Chapter V(A) of the OSCE Rules of Procedure will apply with regard to participation in meetings of the three newly established Committees in the same way as they apply to participation in meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

The Secretariat of the OSCE will provide support for the activities of the Committees.

This decision will be applicable for a period of one year from 1 January 2007. It will be subject to review by the Permanent Council at the end of 2007, with a view to deciding on its possible extension taking into account the experience gained with the new structure.