
124th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 124, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 181

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 176 (PC.DEC/176) of 26 June 1997, to, *inter alia*, extend the mandate of the reinforced OSCE Mission to Croatia and build up Mission personnel strength, starting in July 1997, to a ceiling of 250 expatriates with a view to full deployment by 15 January 1998,

Noting that the existing budget line for the Mission to Croatia for 1997 in the amount of ATS 12,954,138 only covers the present structure of the Mission and will have to be adjusted accordingly,

Considering the need to start implementing Decision No. 176 in the coming weeks, prior to submission by the Secretary General and approval by the Permanent Council of a revised budget line for the Mission for the remaining part of the financial year 1997,

Having noted the estimated financial implications for the enlarged OSCE operation in Croatia as submitted by the Secretariat in document REF.SEC/410/97 Restr.,

- Authorizes the Secretary General to incur commitments and make expenditures related to the enlarged OSCE operation in Croatia in accordance with Decision No. 176 up to the level of ATS 45,000,000, pending the approval of a revised budget line for the Mission to Croatia for the remaining part of the financial year 1997 and without prejudging the outcome of the relevant discussions;
- Tasks the Secretary General with submitting, in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations, a budget proposal in this context early enough to allow it to be adopted no later than 25 September 1997;
- Recognizes the need for early Secretariat augmentation to assist in the reinforcement and effective operation of the Mission and authorizes the recruitment of seven extra staff on fixed-term contracts (one Communications Assistant, one Mission Staffing Officer, one Mission Liaison Officer, one Procurement Assistant, one Financial Assistant, one Information Technology Assistant, one Budget Assistant);
- Agrees that the Secretariat may recruit a maximum of four key administrative and support posts at the Mission Headquarters, as recommended in the Concept Paper (REF.SEC/394/97 Restr.) on which the cost estimates are based, on the basis of fixed-term contracts rather than secondment, while recognizing that such recruitment

should only be agreed as an exceptional measure owing to the size and scope of the Mission and only if no suitable secondment can be provided by participating States within three weeks of the date of distribution of job descriptions to participating States. The principle of providing international staff for OSCE Missions exclusively on a secondment basis remains valid.

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the delegation of Bulgaria:

“Bulgaria supports the decision on interim funding for the reinforced Mission to Croatia as an urgent step to enable the Secretariat to make the necessary initial expenditures, in accordance with PC Decision No. 176.

However, in view of the scope and magnitude of this operation, which exceed those of a normal OSCE Mission, it is our understanding that it cannot be funded only through the regular OSCE budget, but partly through other alternative kinds of financing. In this respect, the application of a separate scale of contributions, as proposed by the Chairman-in-Office, for financing special OSCE projects seems to us a particularly appropriate and viable option.

We expect that the proposal for a new revised budget of the reinforced Mission, which is due by 25 September, will include possibilities for alternative kinds of funding, taking into account the ongoing discussion on a scale for financing OSCE projects. In our view, a decision on such a scale should be adopted without delay.”