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**Chairmanship: Finland****735th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 16 October 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 1.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen  
Mr. V. Vasara

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE FORMER SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR  
OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN  
EUROPE, MR. ERHARD BUSEK

Chairperson, former Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (PC.DEL/820/08), 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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/821/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/859/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/830/08), Serbia (PC.DEL/852/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION BY THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE 2009 UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL

Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/08 OSCE+), Chairperson, 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, 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, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment)

(PC.DEL/822/08), Canada (PC.DEL/839/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/840/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/831/08), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/849/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania (PC.FR/21/08 OSCE+), 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 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, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/823/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/860/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/832/08), Albania (PC.DEL/850/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Conclusions of the European Union's General Affairs and External Relations Council on Georgia/Russia of 13 October 2008*: France-European Union (PC.DEL/825/08), Norway (PC.DEL/841/08), Georgia (Annex 1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/845/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/843/08), Chairperson, Secretary General
- (b) *Conclusions of the European Union's General Affairs and External Relations Council on Belarus of 13 October 2008 and parliamentary elections held in Belarus on 28 September 2008*: France-European Union (PC.DEL/826/08), Norway (PC.DEL/842/08), Ukraine (PC.DEL/861/08 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/848/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *Conclusions of the European Union's General Affairs and External Relations Council on Uzbekistan of 13 October 2008*: France-European Union (PC.DEL/828/08)
- (d) *Conclusions of the European Union's General Affairs and External Relations Council on Moldova of 13 October 2008*: France-European Union (PC.DEL/827/08), Moldova (PC.DEL/838/08)
- (e) *The case of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee in Kyrgyzstan*: Norway (PC.DEL/837/08), 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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/824/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/833/08), Kyrgyzstan
- (f) *The current situation in Afghanistan: Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation)*



Agenda item 9: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General:*  
Secretary General (SEC.GAL/194/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Position paper on the appointment of heads of OSCE field missions (PC.DEL/817/08):* Belarus (PC.DEL/847/08 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/846/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/834/08), Uzbekistan (PC.DEL/844/08 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan
- (b) *Distribution by the Russian Federation of a document concerning the "all-Crimea meeting" (SEC.DEL/262/08):* Ukraine (PC.DEL/862/08 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/863/08 OSCE+), France-European Union (PC.DEL/829/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/835/08), Norway, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/857/08 OSCE+), Georgia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 23 October 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**735th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 735, Agenda item 4(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 15 October 2008, international discussions on the security and stability arrangements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia were launched, as agreed in the ceasefire agreement of 12 August.

For the first time, thanks to the joint efforts of the international community, and in particular, the European Union, the United Nations and the OSCE, an international format was created, by which Russia's self-designated monopoly over the peace process was terminated.

Unfortunately, the representatives of the Russian Federation started to obstruct the talks from the very outset by demanding that the representatives of the regimes created by the Russian occupation forces should be included in them, and at the same time by opposing the participation of the representatives of the legitimate authorities of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. The Russian Federation declined to participate in the formal plenary session, which, as agreed in advance, was to have been attended by the representatives of the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations, as mediators, and Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, as official participants. Unfortunately, the decision of the Russian Federation not to participate in the plenary session jeopardized the success of the talks for the rest of the day.

Later, during the informal "information and procedural point" meeting, in which the participants took part in their individual capacity, and which was not attended by the Georgian participants, the representatives of the proxy regimes, effectively under the control of the Russian Federation, asked to be included in the talks as the "delegations of South Ossetia and Abkhazia". They also declined to be seated at the same table with the representatives of the legitimate governments of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, whose people became the victims of ethnic cleansing as a result of the Russian aggression in August of 2008, and who had been suffering political persecution since the early 1990s.

Because of the unconstructive position of the representatives of the proxy regimes, endorsed by the Russian Federation, the meetings of the working groups on the security and stability issues and internally displaced persons and refugees, which had also been agreed

upon in advance, did not take place. The Georgian side, together with the international mediators, waited until the last moment for the meeting to be held, but due to the obstructive position of the representatives of the proxy regimes and the Russian Federation, the opportunity to engage in a constructive and meaningful dialogue was missed.

Despite the obvious obstruction of the Geneva talks by the Russian Federation, the Georgian side remains fully committed to the peace process, being convinced that peaceful dialogue and negotiations are the only way to ensure that security and stability are established in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and that the internally displaced persons and refugees are returned in a safe and dignified manner.

The Georgian side is looking forward to 18 November, when the negotiations in the Geneva format are planned to resume. Georgia remains hopeful that the Russian Federation, which obstructed today's discussions, will behave responsibly in the future and engage in the meaningful and results-oriented dialogue for which all the preconditions are in place in the new Geneva format.

Now let me take this opportunity to update you on the developments in Georgia since the last Permanent Council session.

Despite its claims, the Russian side still continues to grossly violate the provisions of the six-point ceasefire agreement, which mandates restoration of the status quo that existed prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

The Russian occupation forces are still illegally holding their positions near the village of Perevi, Sachkhere district, and in Akhgori. It needs to be noted that the Georgian-populated district of Akhgori has never been an arena of conflict; as a result of Russian military intervention, however, inhabitants of the district had to leave their homes, and those who remained were subjected to persecution; internally displaced persons still have no possibility to return. It should be emphasized that Russian invaders entered Akhgori and illegally occupied Georgian villages after the six-point ceasefire agreement had already been signed on 12 August.

The Russian occupation troops are still exercising illegal control over the territory of Upper Abkhazia, from which the local Georgian population was forcefully expelled.

The Russian side continues to violate point 3 of the six-point ceasefire agreement, by artificially obstructing the provision of humanitarian aid throughout the occupied territories of Georgia. In particular, Russia is unlawfully demanding that international humanitarian missions enter the territory of Tskhinvali and Abkhazia only from the territory of Russia, and not from Georgia.

In flagrant violation of point 5 of the six-point ceasefire agreement, the Russian side is still illegally maintaining and even increasing its military presence in the territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region, where, according to the official statement of the Russian Defence Ministry itself, up to 8,000 servicemen are still present. Moreover, the Russian side is continuing to bar monitors of the European Union and other international organizations from gaining access to these regions. Furthermore, an agreement was reached with the

separatist regimes on the setting up of Russian military bases in both regions, which also directly contradicts the ceasefire agreement.

On 13 October, Georgian airspace was violated twice by aircraft of the Russian Federation air force.

At 9.57 a.m., two air vehicles crossed Georgia's State border with Russia in the Stepantsminda district, penetrated 18 kilometres deep into the territory of Georgia and departed at 10.01 a.m. from the direction of the Java district (in the vicinity of the Roki tunnel), heading towards the Russian Federation.

Between 10.29 a.m. and 12.27 p.m., three military aircraft penetrated 45 kilometres into the territory of Georgia (from the direction of Mkinvartsveri and Stepantsminda), flew several times over the districts of Oni, Sachkhere, Java, Tskhinvali and Stepantsminda and afterwards left the territory of Georgia.

Yet another incursion of Russian military aircraft into Georgia's sovereign airspace indicates that Russia is continuing its aggression against Georgia.

Georgia, along with the international community, considers ensuring the safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons to the places of their permanent residence as its priority task. This will only become possible if the Russian occupation troops are replaced by genuine peacekeeping forces, which will permit elimination of the consequences of the mass ethnic cleansing policy conducted by the Russian occupation troops in Georgia.

Georgia appeals to the international community and international organizations to take urgent measures to prevent Russian aggression targeted against the State of Georgia.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/735  
16 October 2008  
Annex 2

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**735th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 735, Agenda item 4(g)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KYRGYZSTAN**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I should like to inform you that on 10 October 2008, an expanded meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held in Bishkek under the chairmanship of Mr. Kurmanbek Bakiyev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony was held for the signing of the outcome documents, including the “CIS economic development strategy for the period to 2020”, and a number of other documents aimed at further improving the organizational component of the CIS.

In his statement on the outcomes of the summit, President Bakiyev referred to one of the most important questions on the agenda, the draft CIS economic development strategy for the period to 2020. The implementation of the strategy will ensure the development of integration processes in the economic sphere, promote fuller exploitation of the social and economic potential of each CIS member State and the Commonwealth as a whole, increase each country’s economic competitiveness, broaden mutually beneficial and multidimensional co-operation among the member States, pave the way for their confident entry into the world economy, and steadily raise the level of well-being of their citizenry.

The Head of State noted that the Convention on Cross-Border Co-operation between the CIS member States and the Agreement on the Council on Interregional and Cross-Border Co-operation between the CIS member States were signed during the summit. In view of the global threat that the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs represents, the Heads of State adopted a declaration on stepping up co-operation in combating the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The President emphasized that the meeting had demonstrated a common effort on the part of the CIS member States to devise more concrete forms of co-operation among their countries, as well as the interest of all CIS member States in the further strengthening of integration processes.



Also on 10 October, a regular meeting of the Inter-State Council of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) was held in Bishkek. At that meeting, 15 documents were signed, including one on the formation of a customs union and a single economic area within the framework of EURASEC.

On the same date, a meeting of the Central Asian Heads of State was held at which agreements were reached on co-operation in such important spheres as electricity and water use.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that the text of my statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**735th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 735, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 862  
TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES  
OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Helsinki, 4 and 5 December 2008)

**I. Timetable**

**Thursday, 4 December 2008**

- 10 a.m.      **Opening session (open)**
- Formal opening and adoption of the agenda
  - Address by a representative of the host country
  - Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
  - Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
  - Report by the OSCE Secretary General
- First plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by heads of delegations
- 12.40 p.m.    Family photo
- 1 p.m.        Working luncheon for the ministers for foreign affairs/heads of delegations
- Separate lunch for members of delegations
- 3–6 p.m.     **Second plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by heads of delegations

- 7.30 p.m. Reception for members of delegations and the press
- 8 p.m. Official dinner for ministers for foreign affairs/heads of delegations

**Friday, 5 December 2008**

9.30 a.m. **Third plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations
- Adoption of Ministerial Council documents
- Any other business

**Closing session (open)**

- Address by a representative of the host country
- Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)

- 1.30 p.m. Press conference of the OSCE Troika ministers

## **II. Organizational modalities**

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be conducted in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure.
2. The Meeting will be held at the Helsinki Fair Centre. Delegations of the participating States will be provided with one seat at the table, four behind the table and additional seats in the plenary hall. The European Union (EU) will have one additional seat next to the participating State holding the EU Presidency. Seats will be reserved for invited organizations, institutions and countries.
3. The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to attend the Meeting and make contributions:

The United Nations, the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

These organizations will be invited to address the Meeting in the above order after the statements by the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation.

4. The following international organizations, institutions and initiatives will be invited to attend the Meeting and, if they so wish, make written contributions:

Adriatic-Ionian Initiative; African Union; Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); ASEAN Regional Forum; Barents Euro-Arctic Council;

Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Economic Cooperation Organization; Energy Charter Secretariat; Eurasian Economic Community; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Investment Bank; Europol; Financial Action Task Force; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Criminal Court; International Criminal Police Organization; International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; International Energy Agency; International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; League of Arab States; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM; Organisation internationale de la Francophonie; Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Regional Co-operation Council; Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; South-East European Cooperation Process; Southeast European Cooperative Initiative; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Fund for Women; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; World Bank and the World Customs Organization.

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### **Activities in parallel to the Ministerial Council meeting**

On 3 December 2008 the OSCE Troika ministers and the ministers for foreign affairs of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation will have a meeting at 6 p.m. The OSCE Troika ministers and the ministers for foreign affairs of the Asian Partners for Co-operation will have a meeting at 7 p.m.

The OSCE Troika ministers and the ministers of the OSCE participating States holding the OSCE Chairmanship from 2010 to 2011 — Kazakhstan and Lithuania — will have a meeting on 3 December 2008 at 8 p.m.

The organizational modalities foreseen for the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council will not apply to the parallel activities.



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

PC.DEC/863  
16 October 2008

Original: ENGLISH

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**735th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 735, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 863  
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA  
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to request the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council a draft agenda for the Sixteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.



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

PC.DEC/864  
16 October 2008

Original: ENGLISH

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**735th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 735, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 864  
RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
TO ADOPT A DECISION ON THE PERIODS OF SERVICE OF THE  
OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Permanent Council,

1. Requests the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairman-in-Office the draft Ministerial Council decision on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General, as contained in document MC.DD/3/08 of 25 July 2008;
2. Recommends that the Ministerial Council adopt that decision through a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on Wednesday, 22 October 2008, at noon CET.