

Chairmanship: Ukraine

951st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 9 May 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Prokopchuk

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/6/13 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/319/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/316/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/325/13 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/326/13 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/324/13 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/321/13 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1082 (PC.DEC/1082) on the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2013 Human Dimension Seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and

potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Celebration of Victory Day on 9 May 2013*: Chairperson, Belarus (also on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) (PC.DEL/322/13)
- (b) *Celebration of Europe Day on 9 May 2013*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment)
- (c) *Abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, United States of America*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment), United States of America (PC.DEL/317/13)
- (d) *Human rights situation in Belarus*: United States of America (PC.DEL/315/13), Belarus (PC.DEL/323/13)
- (e) *The death penalty in Belarus*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/320/13), Belarus

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to the United States of America from 6 to 9 May 2013*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/52/13)
- (b) *Round-table meeting on Inter-Religious Dialogue in Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief, held on 7 May 2013*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/52/13)

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

OSCE package of projects with Belarus: Secretary General

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Ambassadorial trip to South-Eastern Europe, to take place in the course of 2013: Norway, Chairperson*
- (b) *Distribution of the 476th issue of News from Copenhagen: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*
- (c) *Hour with the Secretary General, to be held on 17 May 2013: Secretary General*
- (d) *High-Level Conference on Strengthening the OSCE Response to Trafficking in Human Beings, to be held in Kyiv on 10 and 11 June 2013: Chairperson*
- (e) *Invitation from the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship to participating States to attend the OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (including Human Rights Youth Education on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination), to be held in Tirana on 21 and 22 May 2013: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 14 May 2013, at 3 p.m., in the Neuer Saal

951st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 951, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 1082
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Warsaw, 13–15 May 2013

Media Freedom Legal Framework

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote addresses
3. Discussion in three working groups:
 - Working group I: International framework for media freedom
 - Working group II: National frameworks for media freedom – best practices
 - Working group III: Implementation of existing OSCE commitments
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Monday, 13 May 2013, at 10 a.m. It will close on Wednesday, 15 May 2013, at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 15 May 2013, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.

4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of ODIHR will open the Seminar and a representative of the Representative on Freedom of the Media will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Furthermore, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will also be taken into account.
7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

III. Work Programme

Working hours: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

	Monday 13 May 2013	Tuesday 14 May 2013	Wednesday 15 May 2013
Morning	Opening plenary session	Working group II	Working group III
Afternoon	Working group I	Working group II	Concluding plenary session

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the European Union:

“The EU accepted to join consensus on the PC decision regarding the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2013 Human Dimension Seminar. We have shown considerable constructiveness and flexibility, and we regret that it has not been possible to agree a more detailed agenda in a timely manner. In this regard we would underline that there is sufficient agreed language in our commitments that could have been used to phrase the agenda items related to attacks and harassment of journalists (Budapest 1994) and the right to freedom of expression, including the right of the media to collect, report and disseminate information (Moscow 1991).

Nonetheless, despite the difficulties encountered in agreeing on a more detailed agenda, the EU sees the Human Dimension Seminar as a useful OSCE event that will allow us to examine the implementation and follow-up of commitments in the area of freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, with a focus on the relevant national and international frameworks. More specifically, we believe the Seminar can make a useful contribution to the topics of safety of journalists, including attacks against and harassment of journalists, as well as protection of sources, safeguarding of fundamental freedoms online, transparency of media ownership, plurality of the media and wide public access to information.

We look forward to fruitful discussions and recommendations next week in Warsaw under the guidance of the ODIHR and the Representative on Freedom of the Media and her team.”

The acceding country Croatia¹, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

PC.DEC/1082

9 May 2013

Attachment 2

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“While we have joined the consensus on the Permanent Council decision on the agenda and organizational modalities of the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on the Media Freedom Legal Framework, which will take place in Warsaw from 13 to 15 May 2013, we should like to make the following statement.

We take a positive view of the efforts of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to find a balance of interests as regards the thematic content of the Warsaw Seminar.

We note with regret the efforts made by certain groups of States to impose non-consensus language on the titles of the thematic sections of the Seminar’s agenda. This pushed an important OSCE human dimension event to the brink of collapse and seriously complicated the participation in it of representatives of the expert community, including non-governmental organizations.

We assume that due attention will be paid during the Seminar to the consideration of pressing problems such as combating hate speech in the media, protecting the confidential sources of journalists, increasing the responsibility and professionalism of those working in the media, respect for the honour and dignity of citizens, and protecting children from harmful content. An exchange of national practices as regards the legal framework for media freedom, including the appropriate terminology, will enable OSCE participating States to harmonize their approaches and make significant progress in the implementation of existing commitments in this area.

I request that this statement be attached to the Permanent Council decision adopted.”