



Second day of the Sixteenth Meeting
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DECISION No. 9/08
FOLLOW-UP TO THE SIXTEENTH ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM ON MARITIME AND INLAND
WATERWAYS CO-OPERATION

The Ministerial Council,

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003),

Drawing upon the outcome of the Sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”, in particular the recommendations made in Vienna in January 2008 and in Prague in May 2008, and also those made at the two preparatory conferences held in Helsinki in September 2007 and in Ashgabat in March 2008,

Bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to the Economic and Environmental Forums and noting the recommendations of the Chairmanship follow-up conference held in Odesa in June 2008,

Recognizing the importance of maritime and inland waterways co-operation to the enhancement of regional economic and environmental co-operation, security and stability in the OSCE area,

Emphasizing that maritime and inland waterways co-operation is best enhanced through an integrated approach taking account of security, economic and environmental aspects,

Recognizing the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries and stressing the opportunities that maritime and inland waterways co-operation bring with regard to facilitating their access to the sea and seaports,

Acknowledging the growing challenges related to the environment and security aspects of maritime and inland waterways co-operation, and the need to step up regional, subregional and inter-regional efforts, in particular in addressing the challenges and opportunities related to:

- Maritime pollution, in particular oil pollution and the need to develop effective oil spill response capacities,
- Combating the transfer of invasive species through ballast water,
- The transport of dangerous goods,
- Emergency situations and the need for joint emergency responses,
- Integrated river basin management,
- The development of efficient and secure multimodal transport corridors,
- The multifaceted aspects of maritime security, including supply chain security,

Convinced that increased transboundary waterways co-operation can foster dialogue and serve as a further confidence-building measure, and noting the work carried out by the OSCE and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in this field,

Acknowledging that waterways co-operation can also contribute to the management of water resources,

Recognizing the importance of continuing co-operation with relevant international organizations, especially the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and with relevant regional organizations, in close consultation with participating States,

Acknowledging that co-operation at all levels, both between States and between all relevant stakeholders, including the business community, civil society and academia, is important to addressing maritime and inland waterways co-operation challenges adequately,

Considering that the OSCE, within its comprehensive approach to security and co-operation, may support and complement existing initiatives in the field of maritime and inland waterways co-operation, as appropriate and within its capacity and resources,

Decides to:

1. Urge participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation regarding the security, environmental and economic aspects of maritime and inland waterways;
2. Encourage participating States to consider becoming parties to relevant international legal instruments developed by the IMO and the UNECE, in particular the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Annexes, the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and decides to support the full implementation by participating States of their obligations under these instruments;

3. Task the OSCE executive structures, within the framework of their mandates and existing resources, with supporting the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant commitments, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
4. Urge participating States to endeavour to strengthen and further develop subregional, regional and inter-regional co-operation, where appropriate, in order to address the challenges mentioned above;
5. Encourage participating States to develop efficient and secure multimodal transport corridors including efficient and secure border crossings in order to facilitate access to the sea for landlocked countries, taking into account the relevant provisions of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept as well as the relevant OSCE commitments related to transport;
6. Encourage participating States to approach the issue of waterways co-operation in synergy with management of water resources;
7. Encourage participating States to apply and share best practices and technological solutions relevant to addressing security, environmental and economic challenges in the field of maritime and inland waterways co-operation;
8. Urge participating States to promote good governance and transparency and invite them to include all stakeholders, including the business community, civil society and academia, in the policy debate on maritime and inland waterways co-operation where applicable, and to promote public-private partnership;
9. Task the Secretariat with continuing, within existing resources, exploratory consultations with the IMO in order to define the scope and modalities for co-operation and with reporting to the Permanent Council by mid-2009 so that it can take appropriate decisions;
10. Encourage the OSCE field presences, within their mandates and existing resources, to promote awareness-raising and to facilitate training and capacity-building in close co-operation with the host countries.