

Chairmanship: Malta

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1485th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 2 August 2024 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 1.35 p.m.

Closed: 1.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador N. Meli Daudey

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE CASH SURPLUS AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2023 AND THE 2024 ADDITIONAL AND
REVISED PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1485 (PC.DEC/1485) on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, Hungary-European Union (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Bosnia and Herzegovina (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced

1485th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1485, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1485
CASH SURPLUS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 AND THE
2024 ADDITIONAL AND REVISED PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Permanent Council,

I. Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Acknowledging that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and noting the need to continue some of these discussions,

Reiterating the importance of Permanent Council Decisions No. 486 of 28 June 2002 and No. 553 of 27 June 2003,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2024 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

Further acknowledging that the discussions on the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, distributed on 2 July 2024 under PC.ACMF/21/24, are still ongoing in the ACMF, and given that this document is subject to agreement by the Permanent Council,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.04 – Provisional Expenditure Authorization,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.01(b) – with reference to the authority of the Permanent Council to take decisions on all elements of the budget,

Takes note of the additional funding request proposal under PC.ACMF/24/24 of 18 July 2024;

Approves the additional provisional expenditure authorization of 397,300 euros for the activities of the ODIHR Elections Programme, on an exceptional basis, as set forth in the annex;

Determines that this additional provisional expenditure authorization shall be financed from the cash surplus reported in the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023;

II. Recalling the relevant provisions of the 1992 Helsinki Summit Document, as well as Permanent Council Decisions No. 241 (1998), No. 428 (2001) and No. 476 (2002), setting the mandate and modalities for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Underlining that this decision does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings,

Approves the revised provisional expenditure authorization for 2024 as set forth in the annex, without setting a precedent.

2024 ADDITIONAL AND REVISED PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

Fund	Provisional Expenditure Authorization Financial Regulation 3.04*	Total Forecast Expenditure 2024	Estimated Year-End Balance	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Proposed transfer Fin. Reg. 3.02 (a)(iv)	Total Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization
	A	B	C=A-B	D	E	F=A+D+E
Main Programme						
Programme						
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights						
Human Dimension Meetings	603,000	230,300	372,700		(372,700)	230,300
Elections	6,505,200	7,375,200	(870,000)	397,300	372,700	7,275,200
TOTAL ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION				397,300		

*Reflects provisional expenditure authorization until the end of 2024.

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

The delegation of Hungary, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, on behalf of the European Union (EU) Member States, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The EU Member States endorse the decision.

The EU Member States reiterate their full support to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)’s election observation work. As we have stated on numerous occasions, it is essential that the ODIHR is sufficiently resourced and staffed to fulfil its mandate. This includes undertaking all election observation activities that they deem necessary based on requests from the OSCE participating States, be it expected or unexpected.

Therefore, we support an additional provisional expenditure authorization of 397,300 euros to provide the funds enabling the observation of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Uzbekistan as requested by the ODIHR on 18 July. However, we deeply regret that consensus could not be reached for the adoption of the draft decisions on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the financial years ended 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022, and we call on all participating States to join consensus without delay on these important decisions.

Also, the EU Member States support the proposal to transfer, without setting a precedent, from the 2024 provisional allotment for the Human Dimension Meetings Department 372,700 euros by means of an allotment transfer to the Elections Department.

The EU Member States regret that it is not possible to fully utilize the Human Dimension Meetings Programme for its intended purpose due to one participating State again blocking consensus on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). The European Union fully supported the draft decisions on the HDIM as presented by the Chairmanship and stood ready to join consensus. The HDIM remains a crucial and unique platform for engaging with civil society, for listening to independent voices and for holding

our governments accountable on the implementation of our OSCE commitments in the human dimension. This decision does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings.

The EU Member States reiterate their full support for the mandate and autonomy of the ODIHR. ODIHR's activities across its entire mandate are essential to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area. We emphasize that the HDIM is a mandated event that could not be organized for the third year in a row due to the refusal of one participating State to join consensus.

Finally, the EU Member States thank the Maltese Chairmanship for their hard work to achieve consensus on this decision.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day.

I thank you.”

PC.DEC/1485
2 August 2024
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Canada:

“Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Though we would prefer a Unified Budget, we think that support for the decision is still in the better interest of the Organization.

We emphasize that the piecemeal approach of allocating resources is a bad financial management practice and is neither sustainable nor desirable, and should not become common practice. Participating States have furthermore a responsibility to agree on holding mandated meetings across all three dimensions.

We want to acknowledge the difficult situation that the lack of a Unified Budget creates for OSCE staff. We thank them for their dedication, professionalism and skill in managing this extremely difficult situation.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day. Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1485
2 August 2024
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**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 United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United Kingdom warmly recognizes the efforts of the Chairmanship to get us to this stage. We are grateful that the decision has passed. We would have preferred that decisions on the Unified Budget for 2024 and on the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements had been agreed so that the Organization can meet its financial obligations. In the same way, we would also prefer that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting was able to go ahead as mandated. While we welcome the spirit of compromise and collaboration on show in the room today, we remain mindful of the impact of the other decisions not reached.

The United Kingdom is a steadfast supporter of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and I wish to underline the importance of ODIHR’s election observation missions. The continued high level of invitations to the ODIHR to observe elections is an indicator of the high regard in which most participating States hold ODIHR’s work in this area.

A draft decision was necessary today to ensure that the ODIHR has the funding it needs to effectively fulfil its mandate and to support our colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Uzbekistan in meeting their OSCE commitments.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1485
2 August 2024
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Bosnia and Herzegovina:

“Madam Chairperson,

In regards to the adoption of the decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Bosnia and Herzegovina wishes to reiterate our strong support for the Chairperson and her able team and commend them for their efforts resulting in the adoption of the draft decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Without setting a precedent, we support the decision, proposed by the Chairmanship, as just adopted.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reiterates its full support to the mandate of the ODIHR, including its election observation work. We believe that the additional funding for the ODIHR will allow it to continue to play its important part in ensuring that elections are a true reflection of the will of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Uzbekistan, thus contributing to a brighter and more democratic future for both countries and continuing to further improve the electoral process.

At the same time, it is deeply regrettable that we have still not reached consensus on the Unified Budget, and in that sense let me express our full support to Malta’s efforts to find consensus for the OSCE Unified Budget. We stand ready to support this process to ensure that the Organization receives the necessary funding to implement its mandated work, and we use this opportunity to call on participating States to adopt a Unified Budget.

Thank you.”

**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 Azerbaijan:

“In connection with the decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights adopted by the Permanent Council, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to make the following interpretative statement for the record.

The delegation of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on this decision on the basis of the understanding that the decision adopted today by the Permanent Council acknowledges explicitly that the discussions on the 2023 Financial Report and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, distributed on 2 July 2024 under PC.ACMF/21/24, are still ongoing in the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), and that this document is subject to agreement by the Permanent Council.

In this regard, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to recall that in accordance with OSCE Financial Regulation 8.06(c) on the Audit Report, ‘[t]he Advisory Committee on Management and Finance shall discuss the audited annual financial statements on the basis of the audit report.’ In accordance with Financial Regulation 8.06(e) and 7.05, the Permanent Council ‘shall accept the annual financial statements or take such other action with regard to them as the Council may consider necessary’.

Hence, the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, referred to in this decision, is not accepted by the Permanent Council. This document is subject to ongoing discussions in the ACMF and subject to agreement by the Permanent Council.

The decision we adopted today also acknowledges that the discussions on the 2024 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions. This decision also acknowledges that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and notes the need to continue some of these discussions.

In this regard, the delegation of Azerbaijan reiterates its support for the early adoption of the Unified Budget, which would allocate the scarce financial resources of the OSCE where they are needed most to fund the programmatic activities that are relevant and around which there is consensus. Dysfunctional, obsolete and irrelevant structures, namely the so-called ‘Minsk Process’, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and

High-Level Planning Group, programmatic activities which are not agreed upon, must be removed from the budget. This will ensure that the Organization remains relevant and agile and continues to deliver.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the Permanent Council decision and to the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1485
2 August 2024
Attachment 6

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Armenia:

“Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the cash surplus as at 31 December 2023 and the 2024 additional and revised provisional expenditure authorization for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia joins the consensus, noting the tireless efforts by the Chairmanship to find some solution to the outstanding issues that have arisen from the lack of a Unified Budget. It is regrettable that the adoption of the Unified Budget of the OSCE has been continuously blocked because of the unconstructive and maximalist approach by one participating State which has chosen to exploit the budgetary process through blackmail and unsubstantiated demands.

Armenia stands ready to support the early adoption of the Unified Budget based on OSCE working methods, commitments and decisions taken at the highest level, including those related to the Minsk Process, the High-Level Planning Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, the tasks, purposes and objectives of which have been explicitly defined and agreed upon by all participating States.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and to the journal of the day.”