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**Belgian Chairmanship****596th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 9 March 2006

Opened: 10.15 a.m.  
Closed: 12.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. B. de Crombrughe

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, Mr. Arsim Zekoli.

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY BRIGADIER GENERAL FERENC BANFI,  
HEAD OF THE EU BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION ON  
THE MOLDOVAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border (PC.DEL/191/06 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; 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 and Serbia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/192/06), Georgia (also on behalf of Azerbaijan) (PC.DEL/209/06 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/205/06 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/196/06), Canada, Ukraine, Moldova (PC.DEL/195/06 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/44/06 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; 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 and Serbia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/193/06), Norway, Russian Federation, Armenia, United States of America (PC.DEL/197/06), Georgia (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/208/06 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/211/06 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/204/06 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 3:            REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a)    *Human rights situation in Belarus and preparations for the presidential elections, to be held on 19 March 2006:* Austria-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; 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 and Serbia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/194/06), Switzerland, United States of America (PC.DEL/199/06), Belarus
- (b)    *Preparations for the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, to be held on 26 March 2006:* United States of America (PC.DEL/198/06), Ukraine
- (c)    *Investigation into the assassination of Mr. A. Sarsenbaliuly in Kazakhstan:* Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/203/06 OSCE+)
- (d)    *Address by the President of Kazakhstan to the people of Kazakhstan on 1 March 2006:* Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/202/06 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/210/06 OSCE+)
- (e)    *Situation of NGOs in Kyrgyzstan:* Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 4:            DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 721 (PC.DEC/721), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the appointment of the External Auditor.

Norway (Annex), Chairperson

Agenda item 5:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a)    *Announcement of the distribution of the written report on the activities of the Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/37/06):* Chairperson
- (b)    *Postponement of the visit of the Chairman-in-Office to Moldova:* Chairperson
- (c)    *Postponement of the visit of the Special Envoy of the Chairmanship to Georgia:* Chairperson

Agenda item 6:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a)    *Visit of representatives of the Monitoring Team of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 to the OSCE Secretariat on 28 February 2006:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (b)    *Visit of the Secretary General to Bishkek from 2 to 5 March 2006:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (c)    *Third meeting of the OSCE-Council of Europe Co-ordination Group, held in Vienna on 6 March 2006:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (d)    *Visit of the Secretary General to Berlin on 8 March 2006:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (e)    *Visit of the Secretary General to Portugal on 9 March 2006 on the occasion of the inauguration of President Anibal Cavaco Silva:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 7:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a)    *Referendum in Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro, to be held on 21 May 2006:* Serbia and Montenegro (PC.DEL/213/06 OSCE+)
- (b)    *Release of the Annual Country Reports for 2005 on Human Rights Practices: United States of America (PC.DEL/200/06)*

4.    Next meeting:

Thursday, 16 March 2006, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/596  
9 March 2006  
Annex

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**596th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 596, Agenda item 4

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway is grateful to delegations for approving the appointment of the Office of the Norwegian Auditor General as the next External Auditor of the OSCE. We are confident that the Office of the Norwegian Auditor General will continue the excellent work performed by the United Kingdom National Audit Office over the past three years.

I should like to make one point of clarification. It is the intention of the Office of the Norwegian Auditor General to provide external audit services to the OSCE not just for a period of one year expiring on 30 April 2007, but for a three-year period, as foreseen in Article VIII of the Financial Regulations.

I request that this statement be included in the journal of the day.