



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

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**DECISION No. 757
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OSCE BORDER SECURITY AND
MANAGEMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT NETWORK**

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that border security and management is a matter of the national sovereignty and responsibility of States,

Recalling the adoption, on 6 December 2005 by the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (MC.DOC/2/05),

Recalling that the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept foresees the possibility of the establishment of national focal points,

Decides to establish the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network in accordance with the terms of reference for the Network contained in the annex to this decision.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OSCE NETWORK OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ON BORDER ISSUES

The Border Security and Management Concept (BSMC) identifies the establishment of national focal points (NFPs) as a method by which a possible OSCE contribution may be delivered. The NFP network is meant to be an additional tool for co-operation between participating States on border security and management issues, as defined in the BSMC.

The NFP network will consist of:

- NFPs in the participating States;
- A contact point in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

The primary purpose of the NFP network is to facilitate information-sharing between participating States on border security- and management-related issues. The NFP will facilitate the timely exchange of related information between relevant border security and management agencies on an international level. The participating States will define the content of information they deliver to the NFP network in accordance with their internal rules. All information in the NFP network will be used, recorded, transferred and protected in keeping with the norms of international law and national legislation of participating States. The NFP network does not duplicate functions of other international and regional mechanisms for the exchange of information on border security and management issues.

Participating States should establish their NFP with the aim of enabling it to have an access to all relevant national agencies dealing with border security and management issues which is a prerequisite of an efficient international co-operation in this field. The composition of the NFP will be defined by participating States according to their national procedures and practice.

Responsibilities of the NFPs

- Be available for the contact and ensure that communications from the OSCE (Secretariat) and other NFPs reach the appropriate government agencies dealing with specific border security and management issues (e.g., Border Police/Guards, Customs, Migration, Anti-Narcotics agencies) on a national level;
- Co-ordinate collection of information from the appropriate government agencies dealing with specific border security and management issues and communicate this information to other NFPs, when requested, on an international level;

- Communicate to the Secretariat, on behalf of the participating State concerned, requests for assistance related to border security and management issues that the OSCE might support and facilitate;
- Communicate to the Secretariat information containing examples of national “best practices” to be further shared among participating States;
- Provide timely update to the Secretariat, in case of any changes, of the contact information for the NFP in the participating State concerned.

Responsibilities of the Secretariat

- To maintain the efficient functioning of the NFP network;
- To process incoming information and requests from the participating States on border security- and management-related issues;
- Compile an OSCE-wide list containing all necessary information on NFPs (e.g., names, contact details, addresses, organigrams, etc.);
- To maintain an up-to-date list of NFPs and ensure that all NFPs are notified of changes;
- To inform NFPs concerning relevant border security and management initiatives and activities in the OSCE area.