
Chairmanship: Lithuania**857th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**1. Date: Thursday, 7 April 2011

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Suspended: 1 p.m.

Resumed: 3.10 p.m.

Closed: 4.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Krivas3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: **REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS**

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SEC.GAL/59/11), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/317/11), Switzerland, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/330/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/336/11), Uzbekistan (PC.DEL/345/11), Holy See (PC.DEL/315/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/342/11), Moldova (PC.DEL/327/11)

Agenda item 2: **REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES**(a) *Fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan:* Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country

Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/319/11), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/335/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/323/11), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/328/11)

- (b) *International Roma Day, 8 April 2011*: Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/320/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/325/11)
- (c) *Presidential elections in Kazakhstan, held on 3 April 2011*: Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/318/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/338/11), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/332/11), United States of America (PC.DEL/340/11), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/321/11)
- (d) *Condemnation of a recent burning of a copy of the Koran in the United States of America*: Kazakhstan (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey) (Annex 1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/333/11), Holy See (PC.DEL/316/11), Belarus (PC.DEL/337/11), Azerbaijan, Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/344/11), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), United States of America (Annex 2)
- (e) *Article 31 demonstrations in the Russian Federation*: United States of America (PC.DEL/324/11), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/334/11)

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Statement by the Chairperson-in-Office condemning the killing of UN workers and local residents in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan (SEC.PR/75/11)*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)
- (b) *Participation by the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General in a seminar entitled Building Bridges: Security Community and Partnerships for Change, held at Vilnius University on 5 April 2011*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)
- (c) *Telephone conversation between the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, on 5 April 2011*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)

- (d) *Telephone conversation between the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 5 April 2011: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)*
- (e) *Informal meeting of the participants in the “5+2” Transdniestrian settlement process, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 April 2011: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)*
- (f) *Second Preparatory Meeting of the Nineteenth Economic and Environmental Forum, on development of sustainable transport, held in Druskininkai, Lithuania, on 4 and 5 April 2011: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/55/11)*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/64/11 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Moscow Mechanism fact-finding mission to Belarus: Belarus (Annex 3), Russian Federation (Annex 4), Czech Republic (also on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 5), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (Annex 6), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein) (Annex 7), Kazakhstan (Annex 8), Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (Annex 9), Azerbaijan, Chairperson (CIO.GAL/56/11 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Turkey, to be held on 12 June 2011: Turkey*
- (c) *Selection process for the position of Secretary General: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 April 2011, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN (ALSO ON BEHALF OF
AZERBAIJAN, TAJIKISTAN AND TURKEY)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour and the privilege to take the floor today on behalf of the following participating States: Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly condemn the burning of the Quran by a religious leader in the United States on 20 March 2011, and the subsequent violent incidents which claimed the lives of United Nations staff members in Afghanistan.

Such a manifestation of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims is a shameless and irresponsible provocation, disrupting peaceful relations between different religions and communities.

This appalling act reflects one of the worst forms of extremism, which offends millions of Muslims around the world.

The offensive character of this act in no way legitimizes violence and the killing of innocent people.

It nullifies all the efforts of the international community, including of the OSCE, aimed at the reconstruction of Afghanistan, an OSCE Partner for Co-operation.

The entire responsibility for its serious consequences rests squarely on those who failed to prevent it.

While acknowledging that freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracies, such freedom should be balanced by the need for combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews and representatives of other religions. To this end, we stress the important role of community and religious leaders in promoting tolerance and mutual understanding.

We call on the governments concerned to pay close attention to the issue of fulfilment of our common commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security, as well as in numerous decisions of the Ministerial and Permanent Councils.

The alignment process relating to this statement has not yet been finalized, and any other participating States may associate themselves with it.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

We would like to thank the delegation of Kazakhstan for bringing this to the attention of the permanent Council, and we join with you in condemning these heinous acts. President Obama condemned the attack on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and ongoing strife in the strongest possible terms. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed, a total of 24, I understand, as of today. The brave women and men of the United Nations, including the Afghan staff, undertake their work in support of the Afghan people. Their work is essential to building a stronger Afghanistan for the benefit of all its citizens. We stress the importance of calm and urge all parties to reject violence and resolve differences through dialogue.

We have been very clear on our position with respect to the burning of a copy of the Koran. While respecting the fundamental freedom of expression, we condemn such acts as the desecration of a holy text as, in President's Obama's words, "extreme intolerance and bigotry." We are deeply concerned about all deliberate attempts to offend members of any religious or ethnic group or sow division between groups. That said, there is no justification – in any religion or law – for the murder of innocent people. Let me repeat: there is no justification – in any religion or law – for the murder of innocent people, and we categorically reject any rationale for such outrageous actions.

It is disappointing – and, in fact, astonishing – to hear some of our colleagues call for a denunciation of the burning of the Koran and fail to call for a denunciation of the violence and murder of innocent people in the name of religion. The Proclamation of the Pontifical Council for Religious Dialogue, quoted by the Representative of the Holy See, is particularly eloquent on this matter.

We thank the Russian Federation for calling for the criminals responsible for these murders to be caught and punished. We thank the Representative of the Government of Afghanistan for his information on the actions being taken by his Government to this end.

We believe firmly in freedom of religion and freedom of expression. They are universal rights, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, in the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights and in our shared OSCE commitments. Religious freedom and religious tolerance, as well as freedom of expression, are fundamental pillars of U.S. society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus intends to set out a number of considerations of principle regarding the initiative by a group of countries to invoke the so-called Moscow Mechanism of the OSCE against our country.

We categorically reject the interpretation of the situation in Belarus outlined by the countries behind this initiative. There are no objective grounds for invoking the aforementioned mechanism.

First of all, under the terms of paragraph 12 of the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE of 1991, the attempt to portray Belarus as a particular case of non-compliance with commitments is clearly of a biased and contrived nature. There is no threat to the fulfilment of OSCE commitments in Belarus, and much less a “particularly serious” one. The situation in the country is stable, and there are no inter-ethnic or interreligious conflicts. The Republic of Belarus takes a responsible approach to the implementation of its international commitments, including those in the human dimension of the OSCE.

Secondly, some of our colleagues are saying outright that the decision by Belarus regarding the OSCE Office was the real reason for invoking the Moscow Mechanism. In this way, they are using this initiative to try to force us to reconsider our decision. And not only us: the application of the Moscow Mechanism against a State that has decided to terminate an OSCE field presence is a blatant attempt to create a precedent for denying other States the right to adopt such a decision. We must all be clearly and explicitly aware of this.

Terminating the mandate of an OSCE mission is the sovereign right of any OSCE participating State. This right has been exercised in countries on numerous occasions, including situations in which the implementation of OSCE commitments has been quite critical. The Moscow Mechanism has never been applied in these cases.

Let us repeat once more: missions have closed not only in Belarus, and this has never served as grounds for invoking these instruments.

Moreover, there have in fact been crisis situations claiming many lives and requiring a most serious response in recent years in the OSCE area, including countries where no OSCE missions are present. And yet we have not even heard of attempts to invoke the relevant mechanisms.

An odious and overt double standard that is causing fundamental damage to the OSCE's authority is therefore being applied by the initiators of the Moscow Mechanism in this case.

Thirdly, Belarus continues to work with the Chairmanship, institutions and other executive structures of the OSCE on the complete range of issues on the Organization's agenda. We have officially and repeatedly informed the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the participating States of our readiness to continue the OSCE's project activities in Belarus. The fact that the group of initiators are deliberately ignoring this sends the wrong signal to all the OSCE participating States. The application of extraordinary measures only hampers the continuation of co-operation.

Belarus systematically engages in dialogue on all questions of interest or concern to our partners. As actually provided for in the Moscow Document, the relevant information is regularly made available within the Permanent Council or at OSCE events.

What kind of impartial rapporteur mission can there be if the Moscow Mechanism is invoked without valid grounds and if it is initiated by a group of countries that have already taken a definite and publicly declared position with respect to Belarus? The report's conclusions are bound to be predetermined from the outset.

Instead of dialogue and practical co-operation, a politicized mechanism is being foisted on us, the invoking of which is a graphic example of the overt application of double standards.

As a fourth point, the judicial proceedings with respect to the acts of violence against the government buildings on the evening of 19 December 2010 in Minsk are still not over. They are being conducted in full conformity with the laws of Belarus and the established procedures, and also with the principles of the rule of law and independence of the judicial branch.

Moreover, Belarus, guided in fact by its OSCE commitments, has invited experts from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to monitor these judicial proceedings. An open position on such a sensitive issue is extremely rare in the history of our Organization. This work has still not been completed, but the Organization is already attempting to foist a new mission on the Republic of Belarus.

Incidentally, this is in itself a violation of the Moscow Document. Pursuant to its provisions, two different expert or OSCE rapporteur missions may not work in a participating State on the same question.

Mr. Chairperson,

Consensus is at the heart of OSCE, but the Moscow Mechanism is not based on consensus and is prone to opportunistic, politically motivated and tendentious influences and manipulation. It has been applied rarely and has not justified itself in practice – it is a “rusty” instrument from a bygone age, an aberration from the early 1990s. In no case has the invoking of the Moscow Mechanism produced positive results, and it has not been applied in recent crisis situations. There are no clear criteria for defining a situation as an “emergency”. The precedents that exist for invoking this mechanism confirm that it is relic of the “bloc-based” approach and, accordingly, it divides rather than unites the OSCE countries.

A return to such means is not only counter-productive. It leads to a loss of trust among partners within the OSCE and a definitive imbalance in the OSCE’s work, resulting in a further deepening of dividing lines.

Just take a look at the composition of the group of initiators. It says more eloquently than any words: this is going to split the OSCE. Is it in the interests of our Organization? Is it in line with the interests of the much vaunted common and indivisible security of Europe?

Moreover, take a look at how deftly the invoking of the mechanism has been managed: the ink was not even dry on the document before the initiators were designating rapporteurs and right afterwards the Director of the ODIHR was sending a letter to the Permanent Representative of Belarus without even taking time to study all the procedural aspects of this matter.

The initiators of the Moscow Mechanism are to all practical purposes openly sending a clear signal to the entire OSCE. They want to manipulate the Organization for their own ends and will stop at nothing in their intentions. They are pursuing goals that have nothing to do with the human dimension or the OSCE in general. What is more, these goals contravene the spirit and fundamental principles of our Organization, which spurns the use of pressure and unilateral approaches.

In this way, the initiators are guided not by principles but by their own group interests.

In this kind of situation, particular responsibility rests with the OSCE Chairmanship, which should, at the very least, act as an “honest broker”. However, the Chairmanship appears to have lost control of the situation; it has not even completed the negotiation process that it started with Belarus and to which it has made such frequent reference of late, and is being dictated to by some of the Organization’s members. This is hardly the right approach for the Chairmanship or the Organization.

We call on the initiators of the Moscow Mechanism to reconsider their decision and to return to the framework of normal and mutually respectful dialogue. We hope that the Lithuanian Chairmanship will be able to ensure the necessary conditions for the continuation of this kind of dialogue within the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 4

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

As you know, a group of States yesterday called for the invoking of the Moscow Mechanism with respect to Belarus. The main reason advanced for it was the human rights situation after the events of 19 December last year.

In our opinion, the invocation of the Moscow Mechanism is hardly warranted in this case, particularly in view of the fact that Belarus has already demonstrated its co-operativeness. It is currently receiving experts from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on its territory, having assured them of unimpeded access to monitor the judicial proceedings in connection with those arrested in the course of the events alluded to. Moreover, these judicial proceedings are being conducted in public and permit foreign diplomats, including those from Member States of European Union and from the United States of America, to monitor them directly on the spot.

In our estimation, the invocation of the Moscow Mechanism without consensus on the issue and in view of the objections by Belarus will cause nothing but a round of confrontation and dissent within our Organization. All this will detract from the stimulus for participating States to co-operate and in general undermine the friendly atmosphere that has developed since the OSCE Summit in Astana.

We should be concerned today not about new confrontations within the OSCE but about how to maintain and increase the positive progress achieved through the efforts of the heads of our States and governments at the last summit meeting.

Thank you for your attention.



857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC (ALSO ON BEHALF
OF CANADA, DENMARK, FINLAND, GERMANY, ICELAND, THE
NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA,
SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Yesterday, 6 April 2011, 14 participating States of the OSCE (Germany, the United States of America, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and the Czech Republic) jointly signed and submitted a letter to the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Alyaksandr Sychov, invoking the Moscow Mechanism in accordance with the provisions contained in its paragraph 12.

The letter requests that impartial international experts undertake a fact-finding mission to Belarus to examine matters related to our concerns that particularly serious threats to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law occurred after the presidential election of 19 December 2010.

The above-mentioned co-sponsoring countries consider that the extraordinary crackdown by the Belarusian authorities against opposition candidates, civil society representatives and journalists following the presidential election of 19 December 2010 and during the ensuing weeks represents a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the human dimension in Belarus.

The fact-finding mission and report called for by the Moscow Mechanism are intended to promote the observance of and respect for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, through dialogue and co-operation. Applying this Mechanism will help Belarus to meet its commitments.

All the OSCE participating States reaffirmed at the Astana Summit Meeting in December 2010 that they are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for the full implementation of all the OSCE commitments. They confirmed that the OSCE commitments are our common achievement and they therefore consider them to be matters of direct and legitimate concern for all the participating States.

The participating States co-sponsoring the invocation of the Moscow Mechanism therefore ask that the Government of Belarus co-operate fully with the fact-finding mission, in compliance with the terms of the Moscow Mechanism, which was established by consensus and in good faith by all the participating States.

In line with paragraph 10 of the Moscow Mechanism, we have designated a rapporteur from an existing list of experts maintained by the ODIHR. We encourage Belarus to designate a second rapporteur from the list, as provided for in the Mechanism.

We also appreciate all the efforts of the Chairperson-in-Office to act as a neutral impartial broker and to resolve this issue without the need to activate the Moscow Mechanism. However, the 14 co-sponsoring participating States have decided to activate it.

I ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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7 April 2011

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union has followed closely the post-election situation in Belarus and on numerous occasions has expressed its serious concern over the human rights situation in the country, with regard to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, allegations of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Furthermore, the EU has requested that all those detained on political grounds be immediately released. Unfortunately, our dialogue in the Permanent Council has failed to dispel these concerns. It is particularly regrettable that during this dialogue we were no longer able to rely on the valuable monitoring capacity of the former OSCE Office in Minsk.

At the Astana Summit, all Heads of State and Government of the participating States recently reaffirmed their full adherence to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments. In particular, participating States reaffirmed categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.

On 6 April fourteen participating States invoked the Moscow Mechanism to examine concerns regarding the demonstrations that took place in Belarus on 19 December, as well as developments since then.

We recall that, under the Moscow Mechanism, all participating States have committed themselves to co-operate fully with the mission of experts, to facilitate its work and to grant the mission all the facilities necessary for the independent exercise of its functions. We call upon Belarus to uphold this commitment.

We also appreciate all the efforts of the CiO to resolve this issue without the necessity to activate the Moscow Mechanism.

The EU recalls that the Moscow Mechanism was developed to further respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law through dialogue and co-operation and assist in the resolution of specific relevant questions. In this regard, we look forward to the independent and impartial report of the rapporteurs, containing facts, proposals and advice. We hope that their report will contribute to furthering co-operation with Belarus in the OSCE.

Finally, we reiterate our readiness to assist the authorities of Belarus in meeting OSCE commitments.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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

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



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 7

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF LIECHTENSTEIN)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am also speaking on behalf of Liechtenstein.

The OSCE, or rather the CSCE as it was, was established 35 years ago to bridge the divide to the east and the west of Vienna. The participating States have agreed upon an impressive set of commitments. The OSCE is based on the willingness of all participating States to engage in permanent and open dialogue.

With respect to Belarus, Switzerland is also counting on dialogue and not confrontation.

We cannot allow any new divisions between East and West. In the twenty-first century we must not end up back in the Cold War. We have new major challenges to deal with today. We can do this only if we all engage in constructive dialogue. With this in mind, we urge that the gesture made by 14 participating States be taken as starting point for a further exchange of views on all OSCE commitments.

Belarus has made a number of substantial proposals for co-operation in all three dimensions. We believe that an action plan now needs to be drawn up to give substance to the implementation of these proposals.

We have agreed extremely quickly this year on a substantive agenda in the human dimension. We are convinced that we will all profit from constructive co-operation. The strength of this Organization, which we should cultivate at all times, is its culture of dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/857

7 April 2011

Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Kazakhstan shares the concerns raised by the distinguished delegation of the Russian Federation with regard to the invoking of the Moscow Mechanism in relation to Belarus.

Mr. Chairperson, please attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

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7 April 2011

Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

857th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UZBEKISTAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan took note with attention of the letter of distinguished ambassadors of a group of OSCE participating States with request to establish a fact-finding mission to Belarus, according to the document of Moscow meeting, 1991.

In this regard, we would like to draw the PC attention to the statement of our delegation delivered to the PC, during its previous meeting (reference number PC.DEL/310/11).

Uzbekistan is against the politicization of human rights issues and believes that there is a need to strengthen the dialogue on equal basis and the spirit of co-operation on which the OSCE is founded.

Thank you for your attention.