
Chairmanship: Finland

742nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 27 November 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON
NATIONAL MINORITIES

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/5/08 OSCE+), France-European Union (with 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 Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1036/08), Serbia (PC.DEL/1032/08 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1027/08 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1039/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/1029/08), Canada (PC.DEL/1042/08), Moldova, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1040/08), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1033/08), Georgia, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM.GAL/5/08/Rev.1), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1037/08), Montenegro (PC.DEL/1035/08 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1028/08 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1030/08),

Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1034/08 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1041/08),
Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 865 (PC.DEC/865),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Presence in Albania.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 866 (PC.DEC/866),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 867 (PC.DEC/867),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 868 (PC.DEC/868),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Agenda item 7: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE SPILLOVER MONITOR MISSION TO SKOPJE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 869 (PC.DEC/869),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate
of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje.

Agenda item 8: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
 THE OSCE CENTRE IN ASTANA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 870 (PC.DEC/870), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Astana.

Agenda item 9: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
 THE OSCE CENTRE IN BISHKEK

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 871 (PC.DEC/871), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

Agenda item 10: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
 THE OSCE OFFICE IN TAJIKISTAN

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 872 (PC.DEC/872), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

Agenda item 11: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
 THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 873 (PC.DEC/873), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.

Agenda item 12: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
 THE OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 874 (PC.DEC/874), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk.

Belarus (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision),
France-European Union

Agenda item 13: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 875 (PC.DEC/875), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Agenda item 14: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 876 (PC.DEC/876), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Croatia, Chairperson

Agenda item 15: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Legislation on religion in Kazakhstan: France-European Union (with 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; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1038/08), Kazakhstan

Agenda item 16: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

*Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the
Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/180/08):* Chairperson

Agenda item 17: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Train-the-trainers workshop on the detection of forged documents for border officials, to be held in Bishkek from 1 to 12 December 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/227/08 OSCE+)
- (b) *Regional workshop on co-operation to fight illicit drug trafficking, held in Tashkent on 20 and 21 November 2008:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/227/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *Launch of the OSCE's YouTube channel by the Press and Public Information Section:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/227/08 OSCE+)

Agenda item 18: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.DEC/865
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 865
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/866
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 866
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina until 31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/867
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 867
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/868
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 868
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/869
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 869
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE SPILLOVER MONITOR MISSION TO SKOPJE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje until 31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/870
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 870
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE CENTRE IN ASTANA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Astana until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/871
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 9

**DECISION No. 871
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE CENTRE IN BISHKEK**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/872
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 10

**DECISION No. 872
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE OFFICE IN TAJIKISTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/873
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 11

**DECISION No. 873
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan until 31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/874
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 12

**DECISION No. 874
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2009.

PC.DEC/874
27 November 2008
Attachment

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 Belarus:

“In connection with Decision No. 874 of the Permanent Council to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2009, our delegation would like to make the following statement:

The Republic of Belarus wishes to stress once more that the procedure for the implementation by the OSCE Office in Minsk of all projects and programmes in accordance with Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 486 of 28 June 2002 and 526 of 30 December 2002 envisages prior consultations and co-operation with the Government of the host country. The Republic of Belarus considers that the result of such consultations must be the Government's agreement regarding the implementation of each project or programme. No activity financed from extrabudgetary funds may be carried out without the agreement of the host country. The project activities of the OSCE Office in Minsk must meet the real needs of Belarus. The OSCE Office in Minsk should focus primary attention on transferring its tasks and experience to Belarusian State institutions.

The OSCE Office in Minsk must carry out monitoring activities in the areas where it is to provide assistance to the Government of Belarus on the basis of factual data, using all sources of information in a balanced manner. The coverage of any particular events and facts without presenting the official opinion of the Government of the host country is inadmissible. In its reports the Office must, first and foremost, report on the work it is actually carrying out with a view to implementing its mandate. It must refrain from political assessments of events or predictions regarding the development of the situation in the host country.

In their activities, the staff of the OSCE Office in Minsk must be strictly guided, *inter alia*, by the principle of political neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that there are no objective grounds for the presence of an OSCE field mission in Belarus. What is more, we have regularly pointed out that OSCE missions are not permanent institutions and that plans must be made to gradually close them down as they fulfil their mandates. In consenting to the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk for another one-year period, the Republic of Belarus firmly takes this position and will continue to work in that direction.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”



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

PC.DEC/875
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 13

**DECISION No. 875
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until
31 December 2009.



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

PC.DEC/876
27 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

742nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 742, Agenda item 14

**DECISION No. 876
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE**

The Permanent Council,

Referring to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine until 30 June 2009.