
Chairmanship: Ukraine**957th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 27 June 2013

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 12.50 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Prokopchuk

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences to Romania in connection with a bus crash that had occurred in Montenegro, on 23 June 2013.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES, H.E.
SERGEY LEBEDEV

Chairperson, Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (PC.DEL/591/13), Belarus, United States of America (PC.DEL/576/13), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/583/13/Corr.1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/602/13), Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (PC.FR/13/13 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation

and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/584/13/Corr.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/577/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/604/13), Turkey (PC.DEL/590/13 OSCE+), Greece (Annex 1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Annex 2),
Chairperson

Agenda item 3: 2012 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE RECRUITMENT
POLICIES

Chairperson, Secretary General, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/585/13/Corr.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/578/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/601/13), Norway (PC.DEL/598/13 OSCE+), Turkey

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Parliamentary elections in Albania, held on 23 June 2013*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/586/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/581/13), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Albania (PC.DEL/589/13)
- (b) *Forcible eviction of non-governmental organization "For Human Rights" in Moscow*: United States of America (PC.DEL/579/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/605/13)
- (c) *The death penalty in Belarus*: Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/588/13), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/592/13), Belarus (PC.DEL/611/13)
- (d) *Recent adoption by the Transdniestrian side of the so-called "legal act on the border"*: Moldova (PC.DEL/599/13), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade

Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/587/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/580/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/603/13), Chairperson

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

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office (CIO.GAL/85/13):* Chairperson
- (b) *Meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, in Kyiv on 14 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)
- (c) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Georgia, on 18 and 19 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)
- (d) *Thirty-fifth meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 21 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)
- (e) *Meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova, H.E. N. Gherman, on 21 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)
- (f) *Twenty-fourth round of the Geneva International Discussions, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25 and 26 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)
- (g) *2013 Annual Security Review Conference, held in Vienna on 19 and 20 June 2013:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/85/13)

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General:* Secretary General
- (b) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. J. Eliasson:* Secretary General
- (c) *Issuance of a vacancy notice for the position of the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek:* Secretary General
- (d) *Issuance of a vacancy notice for the position of the Director of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe:* Secretary General

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, Ambassador V. Kuchyňová Šmigolová:* Chairperson, Czech Republic

- (b) *Meeting of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, held in Vienna on 21 June 2013: Switzerland (PC.DEL/593/13 OSCE+), Chairperson*
- (c) *Fifth World Congress against the Death Penalty, held in Madrid, from 12 to 15 June 2013: Spain (also on behalf of France, Norway and Switzerland) (Annex 3)*
- (d) *Visit of election experts from the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to Lithuania: Lithuania*
- (e) *United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, observed on 26 June 2013: United Kingdom*
- (f) *Presidential elections in Mongolia, held on 26 June 2013: Mongolia*
- (g) *Conference on Prevention of Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet, to be held in Vienna on 25 and 26 July 2013: Chairperson*
- (h) *Selection process for the position of High Commissioner on National Minorities: Chairperson*
- (i) *First meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Scales of Contributions, to be held in Vienna on 1 July 2013: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 2 July 2013, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/957
27 June 2013
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

957th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 957, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

While fully subscribing to the EU statement, I would like to make an intervention in my national capacity.

Concerning the statements by delegations that followed the presentation of the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, Ambassador Breth, I would like to recall that the host country of the Organization's Mission was welcomed as a participating State of the OSCE by Permanent Council Decision No. 81 of 12 October 1995, according to which:

“...This State will be provisionally referred to for all purposes within the OSCE as ‘the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’ pending settlement of the difference which has arisen over the name of that State.”

I would kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day of the Permanent Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/957
27 June 2013
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

957th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 957, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE FORMER
YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to join others in welcoming Ambassador Breth and his able team to the Permanent Council and I would like to take this opportunity to underline the Mission's important role in supporting the Government's reform processes in various fields in the framework of our European integration agenda. Also, I would like to emphasize the importance of close contacts and frequent communication between the interlocutors.

We carefully studied the report and we find it very detailed. Also, we welcome and took note of the observations and perceptions of the distinguished delegates who spoke today.

Today, I would like to express our regrets of the missed opportunity for drafting a more constructive report offering critical analysis and overview of the deficiencies, but concurrently positive undertakings and achievements in the process of shaping of our democracy.

We are under the impression that the report only captures a few of the positive undertakings of the authorities towards a stable multi-confessional and multicultural society – be them product of political will or legislative or regulatory measure.

To our surprise, the report comes just three weeks after our meeting on the review of the next year Programme Outline, where we encountered more productive discussion and heard different – more positive views and connotations.

We accept and expect criticism in order to address certain shortcomings, but we also expect a constructive approach, empirically underpinned thesis and overview of the complete picture.

Needless to emphasize again, both the Republic of Macedonia and the Mission share joint interest – the advancement of our democratic society.

Dear Ambassador, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia assumes a series of institutional and regulatory measures in order to streamline and augment its European and Euro-Atlantic agenda.

As you are aware, both, the European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes, which have been and are of extreme importance as a factor of motivation for all segments of the Macedonian society, have been blocked. We welcome that report has reflected clearly how this state of affairs affects the Macedonian society.

Nevertheless, we remain firmly committed to the both agendas. It is crucial that social energy continue to be focused on integration issues. We are very grateful for the role of the OSCE in support of the implementation of the activities of the Macedonian Government to achieve these goals and undoubtedly they contribute to enhancing security and promoting rights of all communities. However, I would like to underline that the key players in this respect are the Macedonian authorities and the Macedonian society.

The ongoing reform process aims to mould a society that reflects the wishes and interest of our citizens. I would like to single out few of our national undertakings (irrespective of order) that may also serve as a valid response to the shortcomings noted in the report:

Political dialogue: Despite the challenges related to the inter-party political dialogue, I am glad to inform the Council that the political rivals reached an agreement establishing a Commission to inquire the unfortunate events of 24 December, which led to boycott of the Parliament by the opposition. The Inquiry Commission has already had its constitutive session of 14 June and summoned additionally. This is a good sign that the political dialogue, which was at stake, may be furthered and revitalized.

Media freedom: Few weeks ago we had a rather extensive and detailed statement in response to the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) Mijatović address before the Council. We underlined several of our undertakings in this area of great importance. Without any intention to revert and illuminate the successful story of the Law on Civil Liability on Defamation and Libel, I would like to draw your attention to the draft Law on Media and Audio-Visual Media Services and to relate it to your concerns. This Law, drafted by the Ministry for Information Society and Administration entered the public consultations process on 8 April. Over 40 consultation meetings and hearings took place with the stakeholders so far. The Association of Journalists of Macedonia has been actively involved in the public consultations process. The Government also sought and received expertise for the draft text of the Law from the Office of the RFoM and the Council of Europe. Allow me to inform you that the public consultations on the improved draft continue and will be fed into the regular law adoption procedure. Please let me reassure you that we are looking forward to continue our co-operation with RFoM Mijatović's office in good faith.

With regard to integration of ethnic Roma and their freedom of movement, I would like to re-emphasize that the Republic of Macedonia does not practice formal or bureaucratic exit restrictions. Moreover, I would like to underline that there is no strategy denying exit permissions to any citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, regardless his or her ethnic or other background. There is an inter-ministerial plan of measures to reduce the number of false or

deluded asylum seekers. The measures are applied in a non-selective and unbiased manner in line with the Law on the Crossing of State Border. Macedonia appears as one of the most proponent countries employing concrete measures to foster political, legal, cultural and socio-economic integration of Roma.

The implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement remains a high priority of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Much progress has been achieved as noted in the report on OFA implementation approved last summer. The report constitutes a valuable tool for further efforts, especially in the areas of equitable representation of all ethnic communities, the use of non-majority languages, as well as on implementation of the Framework Agreement provisions at the local level. I would like to inform you that the second (quantitative) phase of the OFA review is underway and that State funding of 100,000 euros have been provided.

Over the last 11 years of the implementation of the OFA, the Macedonian multi-ethnic society and our institutions have proven that they have a capacity to deal with the challenges of different nature (which we do not undermine). In this regard the Agreement itself has served and still serves as a fundamental instrument for building a common future. In this connection, let me underline that sporadic inter-ethnic incidents are of an isolated nature and do not have a potential to undermine the stability of the country.

The Government has made enormous efforts to strengthen the integration of different ethnic communities in all spheres of life to ensure long-term cohesion of the Macedonian society. I would like to again underscore that building a multi-ethnic society is a rather complex process, involving plethora of actions and featuring different phenomena. There is no clear-cut solution to such processes. They do not evolve overnight. We are aware of that fact, as we are very aware of our multi-ethnic reality and future. Therefore, rigid phrases such as a divided society, lack of trust, separation among the communities, etc., are not living up to their goal to capture or explain the Macedonian context. Such stipulated assessments and perceptions are too subjective, even psychological and may be misleading and diverging ones attention from each and every integration effort.

I wholeheartedly believe that the figures from Ombudsman office which show gradual increase and 17.8 per cent of ethnic Albanian representation in the public administration and a share of 14.8 per cent of managerial positions is solid indicator of those efforts.

I am sure that the Head of Mission Ambassador Breth, as a former bilateral ambassador to Macedonia could easily compare the figures from several years ago and comprehend the significant progression of this integration policy.

Education has been a very important component of these efforts. The Strategy for Integrated Education is viewed by the Government as an important document which contains a comprehensive set of measures and recommendations in this area. Its implementation has started to bear fruit, although the progress has been uneven in all the thematic areas. However, we are glad that you singled out the success of the bilingual and multicultural Mozaik education programme. As you are aware Mr. Ambassador, there are also other examples, such as the Secondary School for Economy "Arsenij Jovkov" in Skopje, which is an illustration of functioning multi-ethnic academic institution.

At the end, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to inform the Council that at the Preparatory Committee meeting on the Programme Outline 2014 we held on 4 June, we welcomed that this document indicates that certain activities, related to community policing and elections, are to be phased out. In addition, we welcomed the Mission's intention to continue to identify possible areas for exit strategies and in this context, the continuation of the trend of further downsizing of the Mission. At this point, the Mission should focus its resources on our reform process where the OSCE can provide a concrete contribution. We also called for progressive bestowing of responsibilities to national staff, which is our joint commitment.

Last, but not least, we firmly believe that the closure of the Tetovo field office should be discussed further in light of the arguments we have presented on a number of occasions.

With that being said, Mr. Chairperson, looking forward to our future co-operation, allow me to wish Ambassador Breth and his able team a safe journey back to Skopje, Macedonia.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson and would like to kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/957
27 June 2013
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

957th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 957, Agenda item 7(c)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF FRANCE, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am making this statement on behalf of Spain, France, Norway and Switzerland.

I should like to inform all delegations that the fifth World Congress Against the Death Penalty took place in Madrid from 12 to 15 June, following on from previous congresses in Strasbourg (2001), Montreal (2004), Paris (2007) and Geneva (2010).

The World Congress was organized by the French non-governmental organization Together against the Death Penalty (Ensemble contre la peine de mort) and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, a network of over 135 abolitionist organizations from all over the world, with the political and economic support of Spain as host country, and the other three co-sponsoring countries (France, Norway and Switzerland).

The commitment to host the fifth Congress in Madrid and to contribute to its financing was made by the previous government and taken over in its entirety by the current one.

The Congress was notable for the unprecedented attendance by ministers from third countries, including some like Iraq that still retain the death penalty, demonstrating the Congress's openness to dialogue.

Statements were delivered at the opening session by the ministers or deputy ministers for foreign affairs of the four co-sponsoring countries, the Minister of Justice of the Philippines, the Minister of Justice of Iraq, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin, the adviser to the President of Tunisia, and the Minister for Human Rights of Burkina Faso. The audience included the Minister of Justice of Algeria and many ambassadors. There was a video message from the Secretary General of the Francophonie and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Statements were delivered at the closing session, among others, by Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, Special Representative of the European Union for Human Rights, Federico Mayor Zaragoza,

President of the International Commission for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, and Minister Robert Badinter, as a major witness of the abolitionist struggle.

The Congress in Madrid was a major event at the highest international level, as the figures show: 1,200 attendees representing over 90 countries, over 200 participants and journalists from countries that retained the death penalty, and 21 different discussions.

Among the strategies and proposals to emerge from the Congress, mention should be made of the initiatives by parliamentarians from the Arab world to set up national networks against the death penalty, and the initiative led by the British parliamentarian Vivien Helen Stern to create a global network of parliamentarians against the death penalty, which it was hoped to establish by the end of 2013.

The co-sponsors Spain, France, Norway and Switzerland issued a strong message in favour of abolition without exception and condemned the death penalty in all circumstances regardless of the seriousness of the offence committed. We consider it to be a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment that violates human dignity with no proven deterrent effect on criminal behaviour and irreparable consequences in the event of judicial error.

The Congress demonstrated the overall tendency towards abolition but also the resistance of a minority of countries in the world that still retain the death penalty and hence the need to increase efforts and continue working with initiatives like this one.

It is possible to highlight three fundamental ideas shown by the Congress:

1. The State and society can and must work together with different strategies that do not necessarily overlap but have the same aim, namely the complete abolition of the death penalty;
2. There are solid legal and technical arguments as to why we reject the death penalty in all circumstances and regardless of the seriousness of the offence committed;
3. The abolitionist cause is not just a European but a universal one. When it comes to human rights, there is no room for cultural or religious exceptions. Human dignity belongs not to no one but to everyone.

In brief, Spain and France, which have set the abolition of the death penalty as one of their foreign policy priorities in the field of human rights, as it is for the European Union as well, and Norway and Switzerland consider that the holding of the fifth World Congress Against the Death Penalty is fully in line with the OSCE commitment to continue examining the question of the death penalty and to collaborate with the relevant international organizations and exchange information on the abolition of the death penalty.

The Congress concluded with the issuance of the Madrid Declaration, which will be distributed to all delegations in Spanish, French and English.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you for your attention.