



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Tirana 2020**

MC.DEC/2/20
4 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 2/20
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the 1990 Charter of Paris and the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Reaffirming the necessity that the Director of the ODIHR carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the ODIHR,

Decides to appoint Mr. Matteo Mecacci as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 4 December 2020.

MC.DEC/2/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 1

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

**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 Spain:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The delegation of Spain would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of a new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Spain joins the consensus on the proposed appointments agreed at this Ministerial Council meeting of the persons who are to head the Secretariat and the autonomous institutions over the next three years and wishes them every success in carrying out their duties.

Spain firmly believes that the autonomous institutions of the OSCE are common assets of the 57 OSCE participating States and their heads must be appointed and act in full compliance with the mutually agreed principles, commitments and decisions of the OSCE.

With regard to the ODIHR, we note that the fundamental principles governing the appointment of the ODIHR Director are set out in Section I, “Institutional Arrangements”, subsection H, paragraph 1, of the [Supplementary document to give effect to certain provisions contained in the] Charter of Paris for a New Europe, in conjunction with relevant provisions of the decision adopted by the Ministerial Council at its second meeting in Prague in 1992.

Greater diversity among the countries whose nationals hold senior positions can only be in the interest of the Organization and strengthen the sense of ownership and recognition by all. Spain will continue to work to promote this diversity.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/2/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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 the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the appointment of the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Matteo Mecacci. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the ODIHR.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the Director of the ODIHR in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.”

MC.DEC/2/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 3

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 the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the decision of the OSCE Foreign Ministers to appoint Mr. Matteo Mecacci as the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), we should like to state the following.

We are pleased that, for the first time in the history of the Organization, the participating States have adopted decisions that lead to a more balanced geographical representation in the leadership of the OSCE executive structures. This is fully in line with the fundamental principles of our Organization’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions. We see this as a first step towards achieving a fair geographical balance in the staffing structure of the Organization.

We expect the ODIHR, under the leadership of Mr. Mecacci, to adhere to its mandate strictly, fully and effectively within the framework of the instructions given by the participating States. It is our understanding that such work will be conducted in line with consensus-based and depoliticized approaches.

We hope that the Office, headed by Mr. Mecacci, will pay due attention to promoting social and economic rights; preventing the falsification of history and the glorification of Nazism; countering racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, neo-Nazism, anti-Semitism and intolerance against Christians and Muslims; protecting children’s rights and combating trafficking in human beings; the situation of migrants; equality between women and men; eliminating mass statelessness and ending discrimination in sport.

We call on the new Director to correct the geographical imbalances in the Office’s election monitoring activities, develop a uniform and consensus-based election observation methodology and follow an impartial approach in election monitoring.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day of the Ministerial Council meeting.”