
11th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 11, Point 5(a)**DECISION No. 26**

The Permanent Council

Expresses its concern over the fact that the Tajik Government has not properly taken into account recommendations by the Permanent Council concerning the Electoral Law and preparations for and conduct of the parliamentary elections on 26 February 1995;

Regrets that failure to take its recommendations properly into account prevented the OSCE from monitoring the elections;

Welcomes the declared intention of the Tajik authorities to take the necessary measures to take into account those recommendations as soon as possible;

Welcomes the extension of the ceasefire agreement and the intensive efforts aimed at the continuation of inter-Tajik talks for the achievement of national reconciliation and a political settlement of the conflict with the participation of all parties concerned;

Expresses strong support for the activities of the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, in particular its efforts to assist the process of democratization and national reconciliation in Tajikistan;

Urges the Tajik authorities to take measures for the improvement of the protection of human rights, freedom of association and expression, and the establishment of free media and press;

Recommends the establishment, with the assistance of the OSCE Mission, of an independent national institution for the protection of human rights that could identify and draw the attention of the authorities to the main problems in this field.

In particular, it urges all parties to ensure free access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to all prisoners in accordance with ICRC procedures;

Calls on the Tajik authorities to accelerate the process of democratization and further development of democratic institutions, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan and with the ODIHR, and to take measures to make this co-operation more effective;

Welcomes the close co-operation that has been established between the Mission and other international organizations present in Tajikistan, in particular UNMOT and UNHCR, and encourages a strengthening of co-operation at all levels between the OSCE and the United Nations in the interest of the full stabilization and normalization of the situation;

Tasks the ODIHR, in co-operation with the Mission, with assessing the requirements for monitoring the human rights situation in view of the UNHCR's withdrawal, and tasks the Mission and the Secretariat with examining, and making recommendations on, the organizational, financial and other implications of the opening of branch offices outside Dushanbe, in order to facilitate a more effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Mission;

Requests the Chairman-in-Office to prepare a detailed report on the situation in Tajikistan to be examined by the Permanent Council within two months.