



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

**Conflict Prevention Centre
Operations Planning Unit**

Vienna, 25 November 2004

List of references to the OSCE's mandate in Early Warning in Official OSCE Documents

GENERAL

- **Second Meeting of the Council, Prague 1992**

III.

6. The Ministers agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting should be an important milestone in the development of the CSCE process and should provide a clear vision for its future course. Representatives to the Follow-up Meeting should, in particular, be guided by:

[..]

- the need to strengthen the capacity of the CSCE to contribute, in accordance with CSCE principles, to a peaceful solution of problems involving national minorities which could lead to tensions and conflict - both within and between States - including possibilities for "early warning"; [..]

- **Third meeting of the Council, Stockholm 1992**

Decisions

6. Preventive Diplomacy and Peacekeeping

(para 5) [The Ministers] requested relevant CSCE institutions, in particular the ODIHR and the CPC, to organize seminars to help share experience and increase knowledge of issues and techniques in the fields of early warning and peacekeeping. [..]

- **Helsinki Summit 1992**

Helsinki Summit Declaration

20. [...] The CSCE capacities in the field of early warning will be strengthened in particular by the activities of the newly established High Commissioner on National Minorities. [...]

Helsinki Decisions

III. Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management (Including Fact-Finding and Rapporteur Missions and CSCE Peacekeeping) , Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

(1) The participating States have decided to strengthen the structure of their political consultations and increase their frequency, and to provide for more flexible and active dialogue and better early warning and dispute settlement, resulting in a more effective role in conflict prevention and resolution, complemented, when necessary, by peacekeeping operations. [...]

Early warning and preventive action

(3) In order to have early warning of situations within the CSCE area which have the potential to develop into crises, including armed conflicts, the participating States will make intensive use of regular, in-depth political consultations, within the structures and institutions of the CSCE, including implementation review meetings.

(4) The CSO, acting as the Council's agent, will have primary responsibility in this regard.

(5) Without prejudice to the right of any State to raise any issue, the attention of the CSO may be drawn to such situations through the Chairman-in-Office, inter alia, by:

- *any State directly involved in a dispute;*
- *a group of 11 States not directly involved in the dispute;*
- *the High Commissioner on National Minorities in situations he/she deems escalating into a conflict or exceeding the scope of his/her action;*
- *the Consultative Committee of the CPC in accordance with paragraph 33 of the Prague Document;*
- *the Consultative Committee of the CPC following the use of the mechanism for consultations and co-operation as regards unusual military activities;*
- *the use of the Human Dimension Mechanism or the Valletta Principles for Dispute Settlement and Provisions for a CSCE Procedure for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.*

- **Rome Council, 1993**

CSCE and the New Europe - Our Security is Indivisible

Para 6. [...] The Ministers stressed the need to make wider use of CSCE capabilities in early warnings and preventive diplomacy. [...]

- **Budapest Summit 1994**

Declaration

8. The CSCE will be a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management in the region.

9. [...] We will further enhance the CSCE's role and capabilities in early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management, using, inter alia, CSCE peacekeeping operations and missions. We will provide consistent political support and adequate resources for CSCE efforts.

- **Charter for European Security, Istanbul Summit 1999**

II. Our Common Foundations

7. [...] We reaffirm the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

- **FSC Decision No. 8/01, 28 November 2001**

Agenda, Modalities and Tentative Timetable for a Workshop on Implementation of the Osce Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Salw)

1. Context

Section V of the SALW Document is designed to integrate OSCE's SALW initiatives into the Organization's wider efforts in respect of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.[...]

- **PC.DEC/243 on the OSCE Centre in Almaty, 11 June 1998**

[The Permanent Council decides]

1. To establish, preferably during the last quarter of 1998, an OSCE Centre in Almaty, which will perform the following tasks:

- *Given the OSCE role as primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Kazakhstan within the OSCE framework, with special emphasis on the regional context, in all OSCE dimensions, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability;*

- **PC.DEC/244on the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad, 23 July 1998**

[The Permanent Council decides]

1. *To establish, preferably during the last quarter of 1998, an OSCE Centre in Ashgabad, which will perform the following tasks:*

- *Given the OSCE role as primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of Turkmenistan within the OSCE framework, with special emphasis on the regional context, in all OSCE dimensions, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability;*

- **PC.DEC/245on the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, 23 July 1998**

[The Permanent Council decides]

1. *To establish, preferably during the last quarter of 1998, an OSCE Centre in Bishkek, which will perform the following tasks:*

- *Given the OSCE role as primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Kyrgyz Republic within the OSCE framework, with special emphasis on the regional context, in all OSCE dimensions, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability;*

- **PC.DEC/397on the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, 14 December 2000**

[The Permanent Council decides]

2. *To give the OSCE Centre in Tashkent the following tasks:*

- *Given the OSCE's role as primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, to promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the OSCE framework;*

- **PC.DEC/500/Corr.1 on Mandate of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, 31 October 2001**

[The Permanent Council decides]

To give the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe the following tasks:

- *Given the OSCE role as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, to promote the*

implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Tajikistan within the OSCE framework, with special emphasis on the regional context, in all OSCE dimensions, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability;

- **Maastricht Ministerial Council, 2003**

OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the XXI Century

22. The overall capacity of OSCE to identify, analyse and take co-ordinated action in response to threats needs to be further consolidated. More attention should be paid to the early warning functions in the Secretariat, institutions and field operations, and follow-up to early warning should be strengthened. Special mechanisms for early warning and peaceful settlement of conflicts as well as the tool of rapid expert assistance and co-operation teams, REACT, continue to be at the disposal of the OSCE. The early warning and conflict prevention activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly represent a valuable contribution to these efforts.

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

- **Helsinki Summit 1992**

Helsinki Decisions

I. Strengthening CSCE Institutions and Structures

(23) The Council will appoint a High Commissioner on National Minorities. The High Commissioner provides "early warning" and, as appropriate, "early action" at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues that have the potential to develop into a conflict within the CSCE area, affecting peace, stability, or relations between participating States. [...]

II. CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

(3) The High Commissioner will provide "early warning" and, as appropriate, "early action" at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues which have not yet developed beyond an early warning stage, but, in the judgement of the High Commissioner, have the potential to develop into a conflict within the CSCE area, affecting peace, stability or relations between participating States, requiring the attention of and action by the Council or the CSO. [...]

Early warning

(11) The High Commissioner will:

(11a) collect and receive information regarding national minority issues from sources described below (see Supplement paragraphs (23) -(25)) ;

(11b) assess at the earliest possible stage the role of the parties directly concerned, the nature of the tensions and recent developments therein and, where possible, the potential consequences for peace and stability within the CSCE area;

(11c) to this end, be able to pay a visit, in accordance with paragraph (17) and Supplement paragraphs (27) -(30) , to any participating State and communicate in person, subject to the provisions of paragraph (25) , with parties directly concerned to obtain first-hand information about the situation of national minorities.

(12) The High Commissioner may during a visit to a participating State, while obtaining first-hand information from all parties directly involved, discuss the questions with the parties, and where appropriate promote dialogue, confidence and co-operation between them.

Provision of early warning

(13) If, on the basis of exchanges of communications and contacts with relevant parties, the High Commissioner concludes that there is a prima facie risk of potential conflict (as set out in paragraph (3)) he/she may issue an early warning, which will be communicated promptly by the Chairman-in-Office to the CSO.

(14) The Chairman-in-Office will include this early warning in the agenda for the next meeting of the CSO. If a State believes that such an early warning merits prompt consultation, it may initiate the procedure set out in Annex 2 of the Summary of Conclusions of the Berlin Meeting of the Council ("Emergency Mechanism") .

(15) The High Commissioner will explain to the CSO the reasons for issuing the early warning.

Early action

(16) The High Commissioner may recommend that he/she be authorized to enter into further contact and closer consultations with the parties concerned with a view to possible solutions, according to a mandate to be decided by the CSO. The CSO may decide accordingly.

• Rome Council, 1993

III. High Commissioner on National Minorities

[..] They recognised the HCNM as an innovative and effective asset in early warning and preventive diplomacy. The Ministers stressed the importance of participating States co-

operating fully with the High Commissioner and supporting follow-up and implementation of his recommendations. [..]

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- **Progress Report on the Integration of Economic Dimension Issues into the Tasks Faced by the OSCE, Review Meeting Lisbon 1996**

[..] At the Review Meeting the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension was dealt with in Working Group 1(b). The main conclusions were that:

- in conflict prevention and early warning, more attention should be given to the economic aspects of security, including social and environmental aspects, whereby the OSCE should not, however, take on an operational role but should entrust the competent organizations and institutions with appropriate tasks; [..]

- **Charter for European Security, Istanbul Summit 1999**

III. Our Common Response

31. [..] Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity. On the basis of these linkages, we will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention, in particular as an element of our early warning and conflict prevention activities. [..]

OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

- **PC.DEC/193 on the Mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, 5 November 1997**

2. Based on OSCE principles and commitments, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will observe relevant media developments in all participating States and will, on this basis, and in close co-ordination with the Chairman-in-Office, advocate and promote full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media. In this respect he or she will assume an early-warning function.[..]