

Chairmanship: Greece**771st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 30 July 2009

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.35 p.m.
Resumed: 3.35 p.m.
Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2009 HUMAN
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 897 (PC.DEC/897), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the agenda for the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Sweden-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, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/639/09)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE THEME, AGENDA AND
MODALITIES FOR THE EIGHTEENTH ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 898 (PC.DEC/898), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the theme, agenda and modalities for the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum.

Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ADDRESS BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AND EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, AMBASSADOR DR. VALENTIN INZKO

High Representative and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/651/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/640/09), Croatia (PC.DEL/645/09), Serbia (PC.DEL/666/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/657/09 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairperson

Agenda item 4: OSCE SPILLOVER MONITOR MISSION TO SKOPJE

Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje (PC.FR/16/09/Corr.1), Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/636/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/661/09 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/641/09), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (PC.DEL/635/09 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 5: CHAIRMANSHIP'S REPORT ON THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE SECOND DIMENSION

Chairperson, Chairperson of the informal Group of Friends on the Future Orientation of the Second Dimension (Netherlands) (CIO.GAL/97/09 OSCE+), Sweden-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, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/637/09), Kazakhstan, Norway (PC.DEL/662/09), Holy See (PC.DEL/644/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/660/09 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/650/09 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/647/09), United States of America, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Extension of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia:* Sweden-European Union (PC.DEL/638/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/642/09), Russian Federation, Georgia
- (b) *First anniversary of the armed conflict in August 2008:* Russian Federation (Annex 1), Sweden-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 Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 2), United States of America (Annex 3), Norway (Annex 4), Canada (Annex 5), Georgia (Annex 6), Chairperson (Annex 7)
- (c) *Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan, held on 23 July 2009:* Sweden-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 Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; in alignment) (PC.DEL/654/09), Norway (PC.DEL/663/09), Canada (PC.DEL/665/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/653/09), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/658/09 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/668/09)
- (d) *The death penalty in Belarus:* Sweden-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, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/655/09), Belarus (PC.DEL/656/09 OSCE+)
- (e) *Gathering of the veterans of the Twentieth Division of the Waffen SS in Estonia, on 26 July 2009:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/659/09 OSCE+), Estonia

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

*Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the
Chairperson-in-Office:* Chairperson

Agenda item 8: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General: Director of
the Conflict Prevention Centre

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Matters of protocol: Dean of the Permanent Council (Liechtenstein), Iceland, Chairperson*
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic, to be held on 9 and 10 October 2009: Czech Republic (PC.DEL/667/09)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 3 September 2009, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/771
30 July 2009
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

771st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Madam Chairperson,

In a few days' time it will be the first anniversary of the armed aggression unleashed by Mikheil Saakashvili's regime against South Ossetia and the Russian peacekeepers there, costing hundreds of people their lives. We deliberately stress that this was a military adventure undertaken by the Georgian leadership, an adventure that the President of Russia referred to as "boorish aggression".

At the same time, it is of fundamental importance to us not to confuse Georgia and the friendly Georgian people with the Saakashvili government. Regimes similar to the current one in Tbilisi come and go, while age-old feelings between nations remain. We should particularly like to mention our long-standing and traditionally cordial relations with the Georgian people. We hope that relations between Russia and Georgia will at some point be restored on a new basis, with due account taken of the realities that have emerged in the region as a result of the rebuffing of the aggression undertaken by Saakashvili. We are certain that in any case he will be unable to evade moral and political responsibility for the crimes he has committed, first and foremost responsibility to his own citizens. We firmly believe that the Georgian people themselves will decide the fate of those politicians, whose reckless actions had the most serious and dramatic consequences.

The world will not forget the tragedy that occurred in South Ossetia last year, when in the early hours of 8 August on Saakashvili's orders Georgian troops opened a volley of direct fire on Tskhinval and neighbouring villages, using among other things "Grad" multiple rocket launchers, large-calibre artillery systems, tanks and mortar guns. This is how it began – the treacherous attack by the Georgian militarists on the peaceful residents of a sleeping city and also on the Russian peacekeepers, who were serving in the region in accordance with international agreements, to which Tbilisi had also put its signature. In this way, Tbilisi chose the worst possible scenario for resolving the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict, namely one involving the use of force and military means, and consciously committed a most flagrant violation of international standards and humanitarian principles. The fate of South Ossetia awaited Abkhazia too.

On the orders of this same Saakashvili, Georgian military personnel from the peacekeeping contingent of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces began shooting at their own colleagues in the Russian battalion. This was very likely an unprecedented first in the history of peacekeeping: soldiers belonging to one peacekeeping unit opened fire on their fellow peacekeepers and began killing them, instead of fulfilling their direct obligations under their mandate, that is, working together to maintain peace and order in their area of responsibility.

Further evidence of the treacherous nature of the Georgian aggression is the fact that the military action was undertaken despite repeated public assurances by representatives of the authorities in Tbilisi, including at meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council, that they had no intention of launching military action against South Ossetia. In other words, the Saakashvili regime hid behind a veil of hypocrisy while secretly and methodically preparing a massive armed invasion of South Ossetia and the cold-blooded murder of civilians. Not that any further proof was needed, it has long been obvious that the current Georgian leadership is not to be trusted.

To date, there has been no shortage of comments within the OSCE on the tragic events of last August, including their consequences. However, the paradox lies in the fact that so far neither the OSCE nor its field mission in Georgia, which has closed down, nor our partners have as yet provided a fundamental assessment of Georgia's military actions. We once again call for a balanced assessment of the situation, facing up to the truth. It is high time we admitted that Tbilisi is the aggressor and the South Ossetian people are the victims and for us then to conduct an impartial analysis of what happened. We must not remain silent about the war crimes of the Georgian leadership, which took it upon itself to regain control of South Ossetian territory by annihilating the South Ossetian population that was living there and the Russian peacekeepers who were protecting them. History will yet pronounce on the South Ossetian tragedy of last August; it is, however, already clear today that the OSCE community ought not to whitewash Saakashvili's criminal actions, giving him a feeling of impunity.

Russia made its choice, taking a difficult decision last August, a decision which is irreversible. In that critical situation, conducting an operation to force Georgia to stop waging war and recognizing the independence of the Republic of South Ossetia and the Republic of Abkhazia as a reliable safeguard in favour of protecting the lives and dignity of the people there and against a repetition of the Georgian aggression were the only possible solutions.

We can foretell the reaction of some of our opponents from the fact that as yet no one from the OSCE community has followed Russia's example and recognized the independence of the republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia from Georgia. We do not consider this a problem. Every State has the right to determine its relations with the new sovereign countries of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Last August, we were not thinking about some immediate political advantage, we were not trying to assemble anti-Georgian blocs and coalitions, but were guided by the purest humanitarian considerations, namely saving ordinary South Ossetians from literal complete annihilation by the Saakashvili regime.

The Georgian aggression against South Ossetia coming as it does after the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia and the notorious "solution" of the Kosovo problem has graphically demonstrated the OSCE's weakness and ineffectiveness in preventing and resolving conflicts and crisis situations. We believe that the OSCE's behaviour during and after the events of last

August has damaged the Organization's prestige. For that reason, it is so important to draw proper conclusions from the South Ossetian tragedy once the situation has been analysed in an unbiased manner. A unique chance for doing just that is provided by the discussion that has begun on the initiative by the Russian President calling for the conclusion of a legally binding Treaty on European Security, in which, among other things, the principles of the peaceful settlement of conflicts exclusively by means of negotiation would be stressed.

If we are to restore the OSCE's lost authority it is essential that we begin by providing safeguards against military operations by Georgia against its neighbours in the future. A first step in that direction would be the signing of agreements on the non-use of force between Georgia and South Ossetia and also with Abkhazia as a basis for normalizing Tbilisi's relations with Tskhinval and Sukhum and strengthening stability and security in the Trans-Caucasus in general. The OSCE can and must provide practical assistance in the drafting and adoption of agreements of this kind.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again that we have the most fraternal feelings towards the friendly Georgian people, feelings that nothing and no one can compromise. We firmly believe that the upheavals we are currently experiencing in our inter-State relations will be ultimately overcome.

I would ask that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The position of the European Union on Georgia is well known and has not changed. The EU remains firmly committed to playing a full role in the resolution of this crisis, including in the Geneva talks and on the ground. A peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict must be based on full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

We recall the Conclusions of the Presidency of the Extraordinary European Council of 1 September 2008, in which the European Council strongly condemned Russia's unilateral decision to recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

A year after the August 2008 conflict the situation on the ground remains fragile, violent incidents continue to occur and thousands of refugees and IDPs are still being deprived of the right of dignified return. In this respect, we reiterate our call for the full implementation of the 12 August and 8 September 2008 agreements.

We also recall the stabilizing role of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM). As you know, on 27 July 2009 the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on EUMM Georgia, including a decision to extend the mandate of the EUMM for another 12 months until 14 September 2010.

Given the situation on the ground, the EU remains convinced of the urgent need for a continued cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population. This presence must include a meaningful monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary line. We call again on the Russian Federation to join others in order to reach consensus on the Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision of 8 May 2009 on an OSCE Office in Tbilisi and the deployment of the OSCE monitors in the framework of the implementation of the six-point agreement of 12 August 2008, for the sake of security and stability in the region. Meanwhile, we welcome the Greek Chairmanship's efforts regarding continued OSCE activities in Georgia, following the closure of the mission.

Madam Chairperson, the EU reserves the right to return to specific issues raised by the Russian Federation today, at a later stage.

The candidate countries Turkey, 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 Montenegro, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



771st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

We listened carefully to today's statement by the distinguished Russian Ambassador which looked back over the events of last year. We believe, however, today should be an opportunity to look ahead. The United States believes this topic and these issues have an important bearing on our gathering efforts to take a fresh look at European security. The conclusion stressed by almost all OSCE foreign ministers at the informal ministerial at Corfu was quite clear: we need a strengthened international role on the ground in Georgia.

Last week we participated in a thought-provoking discussion in the Forum for Security Co-operation, also initiated by our Russian colleagues. In that discussion, we considered how OSCE tools and mechanisms could have been used more effectively to prevent and contain the August conflict.

In our view, August 2008 showed the need:

- To respect the principle of territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders;
- For countries to refrain from acting as “peacekeepers” in countries where they have previously been party to a conflict;
- For more transparency on movements of troops and equipment in crisis situations;
- For transparency, including military monitors and human rights/humanitarian observers;
- For humanitarian access;
- To fully implement ceasefire agreements;
- For a robust international monitoring presence in support of conflict resolution and confidence-building;

- To deal with the question of a participating State establishing military bases on the internationally-recognized territory of another participating State without that State's consent;
- For better conflict prevention mechanisms and/or political will to avoid a repetition of this kind of conflict.

Madam Chairperson, we believe both our Russian and Georgian partners would agree, at least in the abstract, with most if not all of these observations.

As for an OSCE role in avoiding future conflict, it remains unfortunate that the Russian Federation did not accept the Greek Chairmanship's status-neutral proposal for a continued OSCE presence in Georgia. Russia's rejection of the Chairmanship's artfully crafted compromise followed a similar move last year, when Russia blocked consensus on a constructive proposal by the Finnish Chairmanship, even though both proposals were supported by the overwhelming majority of participating States.

Ongoing incidents along the administrative boundary lines underscore the need for effective mechanisms to prevent these incidents from escalating. Uninhibited access for international monitors to the whole of Georgia, including its South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions, is critically important to prevent violence and promote respect for human rights.

We reaffirm our strong support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We urge Russia to honour the commitments it made in the 12 August cease-fire agreement and the 8 September implementing measures.

We support the provisions of the 12 August and 8 September agreements, and remain deeply concerned by the fact that these provisions have not been fully implemented. Although Russia committed in those agreements to withdraw its troops to the positions held prior to the start of hostilities, it has instead built up its presence with additional troops and new facilities while taking on a new, broader set of involvements in those Georgian regions.

Madam Chairperson, Russia is not relieved of its international commitments by unilaterally characterizing the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions as independent. We call on Russia to provide free and unhindered humanitarian access to these Georgian regions. We urge respect for the human rights of all individuals in the conflict areas, and call for the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

Madam Chairperson,

Having listened to the statements just made by the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, I have to recall some of our previously stated positions and perceptions in this tragic matter, which differ from those that we once again heard from the Russian Federation.

The open conflict between two participating States in Georgia nearly a year ago was indeed a setback for all who believe in dialogue and seeking peaceful solutions to disputes. The conflict also had serious repercussions for relations between several participating States. The conflict in Georgia clearly demonstrated the danger of leaving protracted conflicts unresolved, and we have to redouble our efforts in this regard.

Norway remains deeply worried about the humanitarian situation in Georgia, especially in her breakaway regions. We will continue to urge unhindered access for humanitarian organizations and respect for the human rights of all individuals in the conflict areas, and to call for the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Madam Chairperson,

I must also take this opportunity to reiterate Norway's unwavering commitment to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and also recall our previously expressed regrets over Russia's unilateral recognition of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent States, which was without basis in international law and contrary to the principles of the 12 August six-point agreement. This was not a constructive contribution to the efforts to find a peaceful and lasting resolution to the conflict in Georgia, and neither was the subsequent signing of agreements on joint protection of borders, or the holding of so-called "parliamentary elections" in the South Ossetian region of Georgia on 31 May. These were all in steps in the wrong direction.

Madam Chairperson,

It was most regrettable that we failed to agree on a continued OSCE presence in Georgia, at a time when such a presence is more needed than ever. Norway, together with the

overwhelming majority of participating States, strongly supported all the efforts of the former Finnish and the present Greek Chairmanships in this regard. We firmly believe that a continued and strengthened presence of OSCE military observers, operating on both sides of the administrative boundary line, would have made a significant contribution to overseeing the adherence to the 12 August six-point agreement by all parties to the conflict, to easing tensions and preventing unfortunate incidents, and to providing reliable and unbiased information. We therefore once again urge Russia to join the other participating States in order to reach consensus on the only viable solution, namely the Chairmanship's draft decision of 8 May 2009 on an OSCE Office in Tbilisi and the deployment of OSCE monitors in the framework of the implementation of six-point cease-fire agreement.

Madam Chairperson,

Norway welcomes the European Council's decision to extend the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission to Georgia for another 12 months. We continue to be strong supporters of a robust EU presence throughout Georgia, as it remains a vital stabilising factor and is even more important now when, unfortunately, for the time being, neither the UN nor the OSCE are operating in the country. Let me also once more join the EU in urging free and unhindered access for the EU observers also to the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Finally, Madam Chairperson,

Norway reaffirms her full commitment to the Geneva talks and the continued co-chairmanship of this forum by the EU, UN and OSCE.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/771
30 July 2009
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

The conflict in Georgia clearly demonstrated the danger of leaving protracted conflicts unresolved.

Canada is strongly committed to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Canada is alarmed by the humanitarian situation in Georgia, especially in the breakaway regions. Access by international presence in the whole of Georgia is of vital importance to avoid violence and respect for human rights.

It is regrettable that we failed to agree on a continued OSCE presence in Georgia, at a time when such a presence is more needed than ever. We therefore – once again – urge Russia to join the other participating States in order to reach consensus on the Chairmanship's draft decision – which remains on the table for adoption.

While we agree that the proposals for the OSCE mission to continue its work in Georgia were indeed blocked – we and the rest of the OSCE participating States remember that only one participating State blocked any possible compromises or approaches for the continuation of the OSCE mission.

Any attempt to rewrite history is futile. A forward looking approach would be much more constructive.

We would request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Madam Chairperson,

I think we all remember well that the Russian Ambassador has on a number of occasions persistently called on us to finish with the so-called “Georgian case” and to turn the page. Equally, I am sure the Russian Ambassador remembers that no one in this room has ever agreed with his suggestion.

With his statement today, although it is largely misleading, the Russian Ambassador has revised his previous position, which must be a welcome turn. We all now seem to agree that in our future work here in the OSCE we need to address the conflict between Russia and Georgia in a more substantive and structured way, not least in the context of our demanding exercise on European security. Needless to say, the Organization, together with its institutions and relevant structures and mechanisms, will provide us with meaningful options to this end.

Madam Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Almost one year has passed since the tragedy my Russian colleague referred to – the war between the Russian Federation and Georgia. Last year, in August 2008, Russia started a war against my country and invaded Georgia through the Tskhinvali region and Abkhazia by land, sea and air. This large-scale military aggression resulted in the occupation of about 20 per cent of the territory of Georgia. Russian forces and their proxy militia have conducted ethnic cleansing and committed crimes against humanity that have resulted in the displacement of more than 100,000 persons. In gross violation of fundamental principles of international law, Russia has unilaterally recognized the “independence” of the occupied territories, subsequently turning them literally into military camps of its own against the will of the people of the Tskhinvali region and Abkhazia.

In parallel with its military build-up, Russia is continuing to undermine the efforts of the international community to bring a peaceful solution to the conflict between Russia and Georgia. Russia has forced the OSCE and UN presences in Georgia to terminate their activities and is continuing to deny access to the war-affected territories both to the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and to providers of humanitarian aid. Together with its

proxy regimes, Russia bears sole responsibility for the frequent provocations, incidents and murders that have taken place along the administrative boundary lines.

Regrettably, Russia is opposed to giving serious consideration to the present proposals on introducing international security arrangements – notably international peacekeeping, police and monitoring operations, and due commitments on non-use of force and non-resumption of hostilities – as the best possible measures for building confidence among all the participants in the Geneva discussions. Furthermore, Russia is continuing to impede the full implementation of the joint incident prevention and response mechanisms agreed in the Geneva format.

Regrettably, the main lesson learned from developments since August 2008 is that Russia is still a destabilizing force in the whole Caucasus region, including North Caucasus, and still an aggressor that continues to refuse to comply with its international obligations.

Madam Chairperson,

I guess it must be time for the Russian Federation to look more carefully at its foreign policy, especially in the context of the situation following the Russian-Georgian war, and to realize that this policy, which is similar to the Soviet one and in many respects even worse, is increasingly leading to Russia's isolation from the international community.

It must be time for Russia to get rid of its Soviet legacy in its actions and to be guided by the norms and principles of international law. Russia should start fulfilling its obligations under the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement, it should revoke its unlawful recognition of independence of the occupied territories, it should allow and facilitate the return of IDPs and refugees, it should allow international missions into the occupied territories, and it should co-operate constructively on ensuring peace and stability in the whole Caucasus region.

Thank you.



771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON (ON BEHALF OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE)**

The OSCE remains involved in Georgia and hopes to ensure a strong presence for the Organization in the country to help strengthen security in the region. As mentioned in this statement:

“Although a year has passed, the wounds are still raw. The region remains fragile and volatile. Lives were lost during the conflict and after, and people forced to flee their homes lack the support they need to be able return to live in dignity. The OSCE is committed to helping to create lasting peace and security for the benefit of all peoples.”

Minister Bakoyannis regrets that the OSCE Mission to Georgia had to close earlier this year after working to improve the region’s stability since 1992. The Mission’s mandate expired at the end of 2008, and the Greek Chairmanship suspended negotiations to seek consensus around a new mandate in May, following months of intensive talks. At the end of June, the mandate for an OSCE deployment of unarmed military monitoring officers to Georgia expired and the Mission was closed.

“We remain focused on finding a solution that would enable the OSCE to have a strong presence in Georgia, and we hope that despite the difficulties so far, we will be able to find consensus on a format for such work. The Chairmanship’s status-neutral proposal for the mandate, supported by an overwhelming majority of the participating States, remains on the table,” she said. “Such a presence is needed now more than ever. I have said it often, and I will say it again: We need more OSCE in the region, not less.”

The OSCE was still working to improve security in the region – the Organization is co-chairing the Geneva Discussions along with the United Nations and the European Union.

“The Geneva Discussions are the only forum where all parties to the conflict meet and discuss security and stability as well as humanitarian concerns,” she said.

Minister Bakoyannis’ statement concludes: “Thanks to these discussions, there has been progress on important humanitarian matters, including the gas and water supply in the region. The OSCE also is helping to facilitate the incident prevention mechanisms, which enable regular contact between the sides for sharing information and discussing security concerns. We are committed to the discussions and will continue to work intensively to achieve results.”



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

PC.DEC/897
30 July 2009

Original: ENGLISH

771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 897
AGENDA FOR THE 2009 HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002, on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph (9),

Recalling also its Decision No. 886 (PC.DEC/886) of 6 March 2009 on the dates for the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), and Decision No. 885 (PC.DEC/885) of 6 March 2009, on the topics for the second part of the 2009 HDIM,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

AGENDA FOR THE 2009 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009

Monday, 28 September 2009

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Opening plenary session
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 1: Rule of law I, including:
- Legislative transparency;
 - Independence of the judiciary;
 - Right to a fair trial;
 - Follow-up of the 2009 Human Dimension Seminar on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area, with a Specific Focus on the Effective Administration of Justice.

Tuesday, 29 September 2009

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms I, including:
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;
 - Follow-up of the 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 3: Fundamental freedoms II, including:
- Freedom of assembly and association;
 - Freedom of movement;
 - National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights.

Wednesday, 30 September 2009

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 4: Rule of law II, including:
- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment;
 - Prevention of torture;
 - Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 5: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:
- Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
 - National minorities;
 - Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism.

Thursday, 1 October 2009

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 6: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I, including:
- Trafficking in human beings;
 - Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:
- Equality of opportunity for women and men;
 - Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
 - Prevention of violence against women.

Friday, 2 October 2009

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working Session 8 (specifically selected topic): Human rights education
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic): Human rights education (continued)

Monday, 5 October 2009

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination II (continued):

Review of the implementation of commitments, promotion of mutual respect and understanding

- Prevention and response to hate crimes in the OSCE area;
- Follow-up of the 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Hate Crimes – Effective Implementation of Legislation;
- Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions;
- Combating anti-Semitism;
- Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II, including:

- Migrant workers, the integration of legal migrants;
- Refugees and displaced persons;
- Treatment of citizens of other participating States.

Tuesday, 6 October 2009

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of expression, free media and information

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 13 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of expression, free media and information (continued)

Wednesday, 7 October 2009

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14 (specifically selected topic): Roma/Sinti and, in particular, early education for Roma and Sinti children

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 15 (specifically selected topic): Roma/Sinti and, in particular, early education for Roma and Sinti children (continued)

Thursday, 8 October 2009

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work), including:

- Presentation of activities of the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions and field operations to implement priorities and tasks contained in the OSCE decisions and other documents.

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Democratic institutions, including:

- Democratic elections;
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;
- Citizenship and political rights.

Friday, 9 October 2009

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the participation of human rights directors, OSCE ambassadors, heads of OSCE institutions):

- Any other business;
- Closing.



771st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 771, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 898
THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES FOR THE EIGHTEENTH
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

1 and 2 February 2010 and 24 to 26 May 2010

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to Chapter VII, paragraphs 21 to 32, of the Helsinki Document 1992; Chapter IX, paragraph 20, of the Budapest Document 1994; Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004; Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006; and Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006,

Relying on the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (MC(11).JOUR/2), the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (MC.DOC/2/05), Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE and Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/08 on Follow-Up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on Maritime and Inland Waterways Co-operation,

Building upon the outcomes of past Economic and Environmental Forums, as well as on the results of relevant OSCE activities including follow-up activities,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum,

Decides that:

1. The theme of the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be: “Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”;
2. The Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be held over a period of five days, distributed as follows, and without setting a precedent for future Economic and Environmental Forums:
 - 2.1 On 1 and 2 February 2010 in Vienna;
 - 2.2 From 24 to 26 May 2010 in Prague;

3. The agendas of the two segments of the Forum would focus on the following topics:
 - Best practices and good governance at border crossings and in customs procedures, as part of border management, including the aspects of rule of law, transparency, integrity, co-ordination and harmonization;
 - Facilitation of international land-transport and cross-border operations, paying due attention to the specific needs of landlocked developing countries, in order to strengthen economic co-operation during the current economic downturn;
 - Safeguarding of the security of the international transport circuit, including the fight against transnational crime, terrorism and trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings;
 - Impact of transportation on environment and security;
4. Moreover, having a view to its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated into the second segment of the Forum, will address OSCE commitments related to the facilitation of international transport and the security of inland transport;
5. The discussions of the Forum should benefit from cross-dimensional input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two preparatory conferences to take place outside of Vienna, organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities under the guidance of the 2010 OSCE Chairmanship, and deliberations in various international organizations. Timetables of both segments of the Forum will be presented to the Economic and Environmental Committee and determined by the OSCE Chairmanship;
6. Moreover, having a view to its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will discuss current and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementation of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension;
7. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation in their delegations of representatives from the business and scientific communities, as well as other relevant actors of civil society, would be welcome;
8. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions;
9. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Conference on Interaction and

Confidence-Building Measures in Asia; Council of Europe; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Economic Co-operation Organization; Eurasian Economic Community; European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX); European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA; Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea; International Labour Organization; International Maritime Organisation; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; International Rail Transport Committee; International Road Transport Union; International Road Federation; International Union of Railways; International Transport Forum; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organization for Co-operation of Railways; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Regional Cooperation Council; Southeast European Cooperative Initiative; South Eastern Europe Transport Observatory; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; World Bank Group; World Customs Organization; World Trade Organization and other relevant organizations;

10. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum;
11. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum;
12. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum;
13. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both segments of the Eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Committee will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.