
Chairmanship: Finland**739th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 13 November 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed 3.15 p.m.
Closed: 3.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Turunen

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, H.E. JOÃO SOARES

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, France-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 Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/971/08), Russian Federation, Switzerland (PC.DEL/984/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/978/08), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SEC.GAL/215/08 OSCE+), France-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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia,

Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/972/08), Norway (PC.DEL/985/08), Belarus (PC.DEL/976/08 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Holy See (PC.DEL/982/08), Switzerland (PC.DEL/983/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/979/08), Canada (PC.DEL/992/08), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: OSCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LATVIAN-RUSSIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON MILITARY PENSIONERS

OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners (PC.FR/25/08 OSCE+), France-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/973/08), Russian Federation

Agenda item 4: OSCE CENTRE IN ASTANA

Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana (PC.FR/24/08 OSCE+), France-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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/974/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/993/08 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Norway (PC.DEL/986/08), United States of America (PC.DEL/981/08), Kazakhstan

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Situation in Georgia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/970/08/Corr.1 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/980/08), France-European Union, Georgia (PC.DEL/977/08), Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson
- (b) *Situation of the media in Azerbaijan*: United States of America (PC.DEL/988/08), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/991/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *Conclusions of the European Union's General Affairs and External Relations Council on the western Balkans with special emphasis on Bosnia and Herzegovina of 10 November 2008*: France-European Union (PC.DEL/975/08), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/990/08 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (d) *OSCE-Afghanistan Conference, held in Kabul on 9 and 10 November 2008*: Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (Annex), United States of America, Canada, Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

*Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the
Chairman-in-Office (CIO.GAL/168/08):* Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General: Director for
Human Resources

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Matters of protocol: Dean of the Permanent Council (Liechtenstein), Austria
(PC.DEL/987/08), Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 14 November 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/739
13 November 2008
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

739th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 739, Agenda item 5(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I am delighted to see you all back in Vienna after a successful trip to Afghanistan. I wish to express, once again, my delegation's gratitude to the Finnish Chairmanship for the significant efforts it has undertaken over the past year for the benefit of the OSCE. Equally, let me thank the Spanish delegation for chairing the Asian Contact Group in such an outstanding manner. I would also like to commend the OSCE Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Brichambaut and his Secretariat for their role in this historic conference.

Mr. Chairperson,

Taking the debate on security to Afghanistan demonstrates the fundamental direction in which this institution is heading. Looking back to the beginning of this year, we had among ourselves naysayers and doubters, some even looking for the guarantee of safety. Our dedication to the promotion of democracy and our commitment to the Afghan people carried the day. Five years have passed since Afghanistan became an Asian Partner for Co-operation and the country, along with our fellow Asian Partners, continues to strive to make its contribution to the implementation of the OSCE's standards and values and to enhance our participation in its activities. On 9 and 10 November 2008, the Afghan Government co-hosted the first-ever OSCE-Afghanistan Conference in Kabul, focusing on strengthening regional security. I believe that the Conference achieved its goals and I trust that our work will continue towards broad applicability of the perceptions and recommendations stemming from this event.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE plays a remarkable role as a catalyst for change. Its major contributions towards democracy and peace across Europe are now spreading to other areas where people share the desire for liberty and security. Our agenda for the coming years is ambitious and we must seize every opportunity to face our challenges and meet our goals.

The OSCE-Afghanistan Conference represented such a challenge that we overcame, strengthening our partnership and building towards our future endeavours. The lack of security in Afghanistan and the region has massive and global ramifications, and the tyrannies of terrorism and the illegal drug trade constitute direct and constant threats to the

stability and interests of all States. Our response must be multidimensional, steadfast and comprehensive, using every tool and resource available to us.

Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, to take this opportunity to thank the Russian Federation and the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the Secretariat for collaborating in training 12 Afghan police officers in a training course on fighting drug trafficking, organized by the OSCE with the International Counter-Narcotics Training Centre of the Russian Advanced Police Academy in Domodedovo, outside Moscow.

Mr. Chairperson,

To conclude, I wish to thank all the delegates for their valuable contributions and ideas brought up during the Conference. I hope that many of these ideas may be taken into account in the deliberations of our future meetings dealing with the challenges of security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.