
Bulgarian Chairmanship**500th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 18 March 2004

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Petrov

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, reiterated the expression of condolences to Spain in connection with several explosions at railway stations in Madrid on 11 March 2004. Spain (PC.DEL/188/04) thanked the Council.

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Situation in the Ajara region of Georgia:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/193/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/198/04), Russian Federation, Canada, Norway, Turkey, Croatia (PC.DEL/191/04), Armenia, Chairperson, Georgia (PC.DEL/208/04 Restr.)
- (b) *Media situation in Ukraine:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/196/04), Norway, Ukraine
- (c) *Presidential elections in the Russian Federation on 14 March 2004:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/195/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/199/04), Norway, Canada, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/205/04)

- (d) *Case of Mr. Basili Mkalavishvili in Georgia*: United States of America (PC.DEL/200/04), Canada
- (e) *Situation in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia*: Georgia (PC.DEL/207/04 Restr.), Turkey, Russian Federation
- (f) *Human rights situation in Turkmenistan*: Turkmenistan (PC.DEL/189/04 Restr.)
- (g) *Situation in Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro*: Chairperson, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/194/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/202/04), Russian Federation, Croatia (PC.DEL/192/04), Canada, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania (PC.DEL/209/04), Serbia and Montenegro, Secretary General

Agenda item 2: OSCE CENTRE IN TASHKENT

Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent (PC.FR/5/04 Restr.), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/197/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/204/04), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/201/04), Norway (PC.DEL/210/04 Restr.), Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 2004 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 601 (PC.DEC/601), the text of which is appended to this Journal, on the dates of the 2004 Annual Security Review Conference

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Visit of the Chairman-in-Office to the Southern Caucasus: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/23/04)

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *OSCE-Japan Conference, held in Tokyo on 15 and 16 March 2004*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/68/04 Restr.), Japan (Partner for Co-operation)
- (b) *United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee conference, held in Vienna on 11 and 12 March 2004*: Secretary General

- (c) *NATO Crisis Management Exercise*: Secretary General
- (d) *Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Gender Issues*: Secretary General
- (e) *Vacant position of a Police Advisor in the OSCE Mission to Georgia*: Secretary General

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Appointment of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty*: Chairperson
- (b) *Consensus rule in the OSCE*: Canada (also on behalf of Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 24 March 2004, at 5 p.m., in the Neuer Saal.