

**1194th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1194, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1305  
AMENDING OSCE STAFF REGULATIONS AND STAFF RULES**

The Permanent Council,

Bearing in mind the previous discussions on unresolved, long-standing, horizontal issues, in particular with regard to the process to reform the secondment system and Board and Lodging Allowance (BLA),

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1288 to extend for the 2018 Unified Budget the BLA methodology as described in PC.ACMF/20/17/Rev.1, pending the outcome of the ongoing process to reform the secondment system and task the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance to continue discussion on and look into solving long-standing horizontal issues, including the secondment system and BLA for all Unified Budget funded executive structures, Staff Standard Costs, Augmentations Fund, local staff income taxation and budget cycle, as a separate issue,

Decides to:

Approve the revised BLA methodology as described in appendix 2 of PC.ACMF/53/18/Rev.3.

PC.DEC/1305  
30 August 2018  
Attachment

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of France:

“France would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The decision that we are adopting today modifies the methodology for calculating the Board and Lodging Allowance (BLA), whose inclusion in the 2017 budget France had consistently opposed but whose provisional and conditional extension for this year by the Permanent Council in Decision No. 1288 it had accepted.

It makes it possible to improve the previous methodology in some areas, without, however, making it fully satisfactory, particularly in view of the link with the system of making available (‘seconding’) staff to OSCE missions, the necessary reform of which currently under discussion still needs to be adopted. It is only then that the methodology for calculating the BLA will be able to acquire the stability or permanence that it will continue to lack in the meantime.

This is the meaning of the last provision, on page 4, of the document PC.ACMF/53/18/Rev.3 of 28 August that we are adopting today and that sets the parameters of the new methodology. As this provision indicates, the methodology that we are adopting under this decision will only apply to the 2019 budget year and it must therefore be borne in mind that it will be subject to review within the framework of the next Unified Budget Proposal.

In particular, this review will have to take place in the light of the reform of the policy regarding the employment of seconded staff, which is closely linked with the BLA. France cannot accept the continued misuse of the secondment system, which would turn the BLA into a remuneration package compensating for the failure by some participating States to pay the staff.

France continues to actively support the reform work initiated by Italy in the framework of the group of experts on the so-called ‘structural’ issues, which it has created for this purpose.

Finally, we recall our consistent position that any increase in total expenditure under the OSCE Unified Budget remains subject to the adoption of the Scales of Contributions for our Organization, which it has been lacking since 1 January.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day.”