

258th Plenary Meeting

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DECISION No. 318

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the willingness of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to intensify OSCE activities in that country,

Decides to establish in January 2000, an OSCE Office in Baku, which will perform the following tasks:

- Promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OSCE framework, in all OSCE dimensions, including the human, political, economic and environmental aspects of security and stability;
- Facilitate contacts, co-ordinate activities and promote information exchange with the Chairman-in-Office and other OSCE institutions as well as co-operation with international organizations and institutions;
- Establish and maintain contacts with local authorities, universities, research institutions and NGOs and assist in arranging events with OSCE participation;
- Perform other tasks deemed appropriate by the Chairman-in-Office or other OSCE institutions and agreed on between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OSCE.

The OSCE Office in Baku will begin operating in January 2000. Its initial period of duration will be until 31 December 2000, with a possibility of prolongation for periods of twelve months by mutual agreement between the OSCE and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, the Permanent Council:

- Envisages that the OSCE Office in Baku will be led by a Head of Office assisted by a team of up to five experts seconded by OSCE participating States, and;
- Requests the Secretary General to submit a budget proposal for the OSCE Office in Baku as part of the OSCE Unified 2000 Budget Proposal.