
10th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 10, Point 5(a)**DECISION No. 23**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling the decision taken by the Committee of Senior Officials at its 27th Meeting on the Report by the Secretary General on his visit to the recently admitted participating States of Central Asia (see 27-CSO/Journal No. 3, decision (g)),

Endorsing the proposal to set up a fund based on voluntary contributions to cover the cost of travel to seminars, short-term internships and other projects in order to promote the integration of recently admitted participating States,

Decides to establish a Voluntary Fund to foster the integration of recently admitted participating States. The beneficiaries of this Fund will be recently admitted participating States and their nationals. The money in this Fund will finance participation in OSCE-sponsored seminars, internships, training courses, joint seminars; money in the Fund can also be used to finance conferences on OSCE-related topics in these States, and the dissemination of knowledge of the OSCE. Contributions to this Fund may be made for a specific project and will then be used for that project only. This Fund will be part of the OSCE accounting system, its income and expenditures being kept separate from all other transactions of the OSCE;

Decides that no voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if the purpose is inconsistent with the policies and aims of the OSCE. Voluntary contributions, gifts or donations that directly or indirectly involve an immediate or ultimate significant financial liability for the OSCE may be accepted only with the approval of the Permanent Council;

Decides further to establish a Board to oversee the use of the funds received in accordance with this decision. The Board will be composed of representatives of the OSCE Troika supported by the Director of Administration and Budget. On the basis of general indications approved by the Board, the Secretary General and the Director of the ODIHR will jointly decide on the use of the funds;

Requests the Secretary General and the Director of the ODIHR to elaborate general indications according to which the funds received should be spent;

Asks the Board to report to the Permanent Council once a year on the operation of this Fund, either in connection with the presentation of the consolidated accounts of the OSCE, of which the accounts of this Fund will be part, or upon the request of the Permanent Council;

Asks the Secretary General to inform, by means of a circular note, the participating States, the observer State of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, non-participating Mediterranean States, the Republic of Korea and private foundations, where appropriate, of the establishment of this Fund, its operational modalities and the account number to which they might wish to transfer voluntary contributions, advising the States concerned that such voluntary contributions will not be deductible from their assessed contributions;

Decides that this decision will be reviewed after 18 months on the basis of a special report from the Board.