
Romanian Chairmanship**361st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 18 October 2001

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.30 p.m.
Resumed: 3.25 p.m.
Closed: 4.55 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Bota
Ms. V. Epure

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY H.E. RUUD LUBBERS, UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (PC.DEL/791/01),
Belgium-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia,
Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and
the Czech Republic) (PC.DEL/792/01), Azerbaijan (also on behalf of
Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/793/01), Switzerland,
United States of America (PC.DEL/801/01), Russian Federation
(PC.DEL/795/01), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Turkmenistan, Turkey
(PC.DEL/798/01), Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
Yugoslavia, Croatia, Armenia, Secretary General, Chairman

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY H.E. WOLFGANG PETRITSCH, HIGH
REPRESENTATIVE FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/783/01 Restr.),
Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/40/01 Restr.),
Belgium-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia,
Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the
Czech Republic and Turkey) (PC.DEL794/01), United States of America

(PC.DEL/802/01), Russian Federation, Switzerland, Norway, Croatia, Canada, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairman (CIO.GAL/55/01)

Agenda item 3: OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 5: BRIEFING ON OSCE FIELD ACTIVITIES

- (a) *Visit of OSCE delegations to the OSCE Mission to Georgia from 12 to 16 October 2001*: Chairman
- (b) *OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/218/01)
- (c) *Central Asian regional heads of OSCE missions meeting to be held in Tashkent on 22 and 23 October 2001*: Secretary General
- (d) *Recruitment status for the enhancement of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje*: Secretary General
- (e) *Visit of OSCE delegations to the OSCE Mission to Croatia from 22 to 24 October 2001*: Secretary General
- (f) *OSCE Mission in Kosovo*: Secretary General
- (g) *Circulars on security of OSCE staff members*: Secretary General

Agenda item 6: OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

High Commissioner on National Minorities, Belgium-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey) (PC.DEL/799/01), Hungary (PC.DEL/797/01), Azerbaijan (also on behalf of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/800/01), Switzerland, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/796/01), United States of America (PC.DEL/803/01), Yugoslavia, Canada, Norway, Slovakia, Estonia (PC.DEL/809/01), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Chairman

Agenda item 7: STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE 1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

Chairman

Statement by the Permanent Council: The Permanent Council adopted a statement on the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the text of which is attached to this Journal as the Annex.

Agenda item 8: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE BORDER MONITORING OPERATION OF THE OSCE
MISSION TO GEORGIA (not adopted)

Chairman

Agenda item 9: DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE NINTH
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (not
adopted)

Chairman

Agenda item 10: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Visit of the Chairman-in-Office to Skopje on 18 October 2001: Chairman

Agenda item 11: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

None

Agenda item 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Nominations for the UNESCO Peace Prize:* Chairman

(b) *Legislation on anti-terrorist measures:* Canada

(c) *Demining and assistance to mine victims in the former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia:* Slovenia

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 19 October 2001, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



361st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 361, Agenda item 7

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF
THE 1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE
STATUS OF REFUGEES**

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its Plenary Meeting today,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as the multilateral institution with the mandate to protect refugees and to find durable solutions to their problems,

Commending the long-standing, pragmatic and target-oriented co-operation between bodies, institutions and field missions of the OSCE and the UNHCR,

Recalling the commitments contained in the 1992 Helsinki Concluding Document and the Charter for European Security, as well as in its Platform for Co-operative Security,

Noting that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which together with its 1967 Protocol, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime,

Recognizes with appreciation that the fundamental principles and rights embodied in these instruments have provided a resilient protection regime within which millions of refugees have been able to find safety from persecution;

Expresses its concerns that violations of human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons caused by conflicts endanger peace and stability in the OSCE region, and remains committed to continue to address these problems;

Commends the UNHCR for its ongoing actions to fully implement its mandate in a changing world and in the light of new challenges;

Welcomes the process of Global Consultations on International Protection initiated by the UNHCR to revitalize the international protection of refugees on the basis of a

reaffirmation of the relevance and fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees;

Expresses the determination of the OSCE participating States to contribute to the Global Consultations on International Protection undertaken by the UNHCR and the first-ever meeting of States Parties, jointly organized by the Swiss Government and the UNHCR, with a view to strengthening the international refugee protection regime;

Encourages OSCE bodies, institutions and field missions to continue the close co-operation with the UNHCR, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security and consistent with their respective mandates, in order to assist concerned participating States, where appropriate, in creating conditions conducive to the voluntary return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons.