

Chairmanship: Greece

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(753rd Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 6 March 2009

Opened: 10.25 a.m.

Closed: 10.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE TOPICS FOR THE SECOND PART OF
THE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION
MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 885 (PC.DEC/885),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the topics for the second part
of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE HUMAN
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 886 (PC.DEC/886),
the text of which is appended to this journal, on the dates of the Human
Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE TOPIC AND DATES OF THE HUMAN
DIMENSION SEMINAR IN WARSAW

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 887 (PC.DEC/887), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the topic and dates of the Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw.

Chairperson, Belarus (also on behalf of the Russian Federation) (Annex),
United States of America

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 12 March 2009, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/753
6 March 2009
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

753rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 753, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

In connection with the approval of the Permanent Council decisions on the topics and dates of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Human Dimension Seminar, and also in view of the statement by the Chairmanship on other events in this dimension in 2009, we should like to make the following statement.

The decisions adopted by the Permanent Council concern two OSCE events in the human dimension. The topics and dates of the three other meetings — the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings — are mentioned in the statement by the Chairmanship, which is not a consensus decision by the participating States.

In accordance with paragraph VI(A)2 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, the dates, venue and topic along with the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of each OSCE meeting should be approved by a decision taken by the participating States. These requirements also apply to Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings.

Pursuant to paragraph VI(B) of the Rules of Procedure, events held without such a decision by the participating States may not be referred to as an “OSCE meeting”. They belong to the category of OSCE-related meetings held by the Chairmanship or an executive structure of the Organization and, accordingly, should not be financed out of the OSCE Unified Budget. Documents produced at such meetings are not regarded as OSCE documents.

We might also recall that in case of contradiction with OSCE decisions adopted earlier, the Rules of Procedure have precedence (paragraph VII.1).

We shall be guided by this position in our work in the human dimension and in the course of the budget discussions.

In view of the problems that have accumulated in the holding of OSCE human dimension events, the delegations of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation urge our OSCE partners to engage in serious discussion on modifying the modalities of such events with a view to bringing them into line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, eliminating existing inconsistencies and irregularities, *inter alia*, concerning duration and content, and increasing the effectiveness of these events. We also trust that this discussion

will mark the beginning of talks on a general improvement of OSCE human dimension activities as well.

We might recall that in 2008 the OSCE Chairmanship expressed its readiness to organize a discussion on the modalities of human dimension events, however, unfortunately, no such discussion has taken place. We urge the Greek Chairmanship this year to pay proper attention to the problem of improving OSCE activities in the human dimension and to organize a discussion among the participating States on this matter. We express our readiness for active participation in such a discussion and look forward to a constructive approach on the part of our OSCE partners.

We ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/885
6 March 2009

Original: ENGLISH

753rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 753, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 885
TOPICS FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE
HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Decides to select the topics “Roma/Sinti and, in particular, Early Education for Roma and Sinti Children”, “Human Rights Education” and “Freedom of Expression, Free Media and Information” for the second part of the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/886
6 March 2009

Original: ENGLISH

753rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 753, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 886
DATES OF THE HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Decides that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw from 28 September to 9 October 2009.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/887
6 March 2009

Original: ENGLISH

753rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 753, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 887
TOPIC AND DATES OF THE HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR
IN WARSAW**

The Permanent Council,

Having considered the results of the 2008 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Decides that the Human Dimension Seminar will take place in Warsaw, from 12 to 14 May 2009, on the following topic: “Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area, with a Special Focus on the Effective Administration of Justice”;

Tasks the ODIHR with elaborating the agenda and modalities of the Seminar.