

Chairmanship: Ukraine

950th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 2 May 2013

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Prokopchuk

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL,
MR. GORAN SVILANOVIĆ

Chairperson, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (PC.DEL/285/13), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/298/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/292/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/307/13), Switzerland (PC.DEL/305/13), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) (Annex)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *Freedom of religion or belief in Kazakhstan:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free

Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/299/13), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/306/13)

- (b) *Third “Heart of Asia” Ministerial Conference in the framework of the Istanbul Process, held in Almaty on 26 April 2013:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/300/13), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), United States of America (PC.DEL/294/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/310/13), Turkey (PC.DEL/313/13), Secretary General
- (c) *Recent incident in the security zone of the Transdniestrian conflict on 26 and 27 April 2013:* Chairperson, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/304/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/296/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/309/13), Moldova (PC.DEL/291/13)
- (d) *Administrative fines imposed on the non-governmental organization Golos in the Russian Federation:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/301/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/295/13), Norway (PC.DEL/312/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/308/13)
- (e) *Barring of the non-governmental organization Centre for Civic Initiatives from the House of Representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina:* United States of America (PC.DEL/293/13), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/290/13)
- (f) *Combating manifestations of aggressive nationalism and of neo-Nazism:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/311/13), Ireland-European Union
- (g) *Ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Tymoshenko versus Ukraine:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/302/13), Ukraine

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Meeting in the “5+2” negotiation format on the settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, to be held in Odessa, Ukraine, on 23 and 24 May 2013: Chairperson*
- (b) *Round-table meeting on inter-religious dialogue in promoting freedom of religion or belief, to be held in Vienna on 7 May 2013: Chairperson*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Secretary General*
- (b) *Recent incident in the security zone of the Transdniestrian conflict on 26 and 27 April 2013: Secretary General*
- (c) *Visit of the Secretary General to Kazakhstan and Mongolia from 25 April to 1 May 2013: Secretary General*
- (d) *OSCE Security Days 2013, to be held in Vienna on 17 and 18 June 2013: Secretary General*

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on 3 May 2013: Chairperson, United States of America (PC.DEL/297/13), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/303/13),*
- (b) *Election observation activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*
- (c) *Selection process for the position of High Commissioner on National Minorities: Chairperson*
- (d) *Human Dimension Seminar, to be held in Warsaw from 13 to 15 May 2013: Chairperson*

- (e) *OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (including Human Rights Youth Education on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination), to be held in Tirana on 21 and 22 May 2013:*
Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 9 May 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/950
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Annex

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
BULGARIA, CROATIA, GREECE, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO,
ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVENIA AND TURKEY)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process, and all members of the SEECP (Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Greece, Republic of Turkey, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Slovenia and Montenegro) I would like to join others in welcoming the current Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council to the PC and congratulating his proactive and diligent stewardship of the Regional Cooperation Council.

I would like to underline the priorities and to point at the scoreboard of the assumed activities of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process.

We firmly believe in the principles of all-inclusiveness and regional ownership of the overall process of co-operation in South East Europe. The activities and the endeavours of the SEECP represent a joint venture of the all Member States.

As you are aware, the RCC is a regional initiative officially launched at the Ministerial Meeting of the SEECP in Sofia on 27 February 2008 and represents a significant platform for co-ordination and facilitation of our common endeavours. As regional co-operation is an inevitable prerequisite for our European and Euro-Atlantic future, the RCC with its operational capacities and expertise represents major catalyst for the implementation of the political undertakings of SEECP.

We are chairing the SEECP for the second time in the history of the oldest autochthonous regional initiative in this part of Europe. Regional co-operation represents our important foreign policy priority as it promotes further development, stability, prosperity, and peace of the region. Regional co-operation provides a unique opportunity, through concrete projects, to enhance and deepen the co-operation in various fields. Speaking with one voice is

crucial for the future of the region. Moreover, many of the undertaken projects and initiatives at the SEECP coincide with the priorities and policies deriving from the three inter-related dimensions of the OSCE, which inspired us to talk about the priorities of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the SEECP.

Our Chairmanship is primarily focused on development of good-neighbourliness and regional co-operation, with an end goal – integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic organizations of the aspiring countries.

I am very glad that during our Chairmanship, we all witnessed two very important developments:

1. As we all pay particular importance to “all inclusiveness” principle, we are glad that during the Macedonian Chairmanship, we all decided for full participation of Kosovo¹ in the Regional Cooperation Council. This is a significant progress for all of us, which is acknowledged by the European Union.
2. Substantial progress achieved between Belgrade and Priština, so far. We welcome the recently initialled agreement, which opens the doors for normalization of the relations between the two parties.

Our motto is “Solidarity in action”, which depicts the idea that all countries from the region will be dedicated to reforms and prosperity.

The thematic SEECP summit will be dedicated to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, which penetrates in issues stemming from the second, but also from other dimensions of our Organization.

Our priorities in the framework of the SEECP also include promotion of:

- The principle of all-inclusiveness in the regional co-operation, with an aim to provide conditions for even socio-economic development in the region;
- The preparedness and protection from natural and man-made disasters, including by increased seismological co-operation;
- Environmental co-operation with an aim of reduction of direct causes for environmental and climate change;
- Regional approach in the field of protection and management of water resources based on already developed successful models, including by promotion of the UNESCO University Campus on Waters;
- Cultural and religious diversities in SEE, including by commemorating 100 years of the Balkan wars and the Holocaust by organizing regional conference in Skopje at the Museum of the Victims of Holocaust;

1 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- Regional approach in defence co-operation for the purpose of development of the preparedness and sustainable continuity in the defence capabilities according to the NATO standards, as promoted by the concept applied at RACVIAC; and moreover
- Promotion of the principles of good-neighbourliness, regional co-operation and reconciliation through intensification of the political, security, trade, people to people cultural, educational and other co-operation in the region, with an aim to provide conditions for further socio-economic development and progress in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

As you can easily notice these priorities are closely related to the priorities and policies deriving from the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. In the past 11 months in co-operation with the other Member States, we gave our best to put words into practice by organizing and re-convening series of informal and formal meetings, Ministerial and other conferences, as well as inauguration of specific initiatives and policies. I strongly believe that by doing this our Chairmanship continued the practice and added to the records of previous chairmanships by contributing to regional collaboration, but also to the regional input in correlation with OSCE commitments and values.

At the end, I would like to inform the Council that the closing meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the SEECP Member States and the closing Summit of the Macedonian SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office will take place in Ohrid from 29 May to 1 June of this year.

Finally, allow me to once again reiterate our full support to you, dear Goran and your able team in Sarajevo. We are more than convinced in your capabilities in advancing the regional co-operation agenda and ensuring even greater visibility of the RCC.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.