

618th Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 735
THEME, FORMAT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES
FOR THE FIFTEENTH ECONOMIC FORUM**

22 and 23 January 2007 and 21 to 23 May 2007

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the Helsinki Document 1992, paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2 December 2003 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004,

Recalling, among others, previously agreed commitments to make the Economic Forum more dynamic through a change in format and to increase its effectiveness by an improved preparatory process and an effective procedure for ensuring follow-up of its deliberations, while remaining within the existing budgetary practice,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum,

Decides that,

1. The theme of the Fifteenth Economic Forum will be “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”.
2. The Fifteenth Economic Forum will be held over a period of five days, broken down as follows and without setting a precedent for future Economic Fora:
 - 2.1 On 22 and 23 January 2007 in Vienna;
 - 2.2 From 21 to 23 May 2007 in Prague.

Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic Forum will review the implementation of commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated in the Prague segment of the Economic Forum, will address these OSCE

commitments and, in particular, environmental commitments with a focus on international conventions, national legislation and international co-operation experiences.

3. Discussions of the Forum should benefit from input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two conferences outside of Vienna, and deliberations in various international organizations.
4. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic Forum will discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.
5. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation of representatives from the business and scientific communities as well as other relevant actors of civil society in their delegations would be welcome.
6. As in previous years, the format of the Economic Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions.

The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum: Adriatic and Ionic Initiative; Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Council of Europe; Danube Commission; Economic Co-operation Organization; Energy Charter Secretariat; Eurasian Economic Community; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; Interstate Council of the Central Asian Economic Union (CAEU); North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM (GUAM); Organization of the Islamic Conference; Secretariat of the Basel Convention; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; Southeast European Co-operative Initiative; South-East European Co-operation Process; Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations University (UNU); United Nations Population Fund (UNPF); United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA); World Bank Group;

World Customs Organization (WCO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Tourism Organization (WTO); World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant organizations.

7. The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) are invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

8. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

9. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

10. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both meetings of the Economic Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.