

151st Plenary Meeting

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DECISION No. 215

Pursuant to Chapter VII, paragraphs (21) to (32), of the Helsinki Document 1992, and

Taking into account paragraph (13) of the Chairman's Summary of the Fifth Meeting of the Economic Forum,

The Permanent Council decides that:

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Economic Forum will take place at the Czernin Palace, Prague, from 1 to 5 June 1998.
2. The overall theme of that meeting shall be "Security aspects of energy developments in the OSCE area".
3. Within the framework of the overall theme, the Economic Forum will concentrate on the following main subjects:
 - (a) Economic, legal and other settings;
 - (b) Infrastructure and investment;
 - (c) Environmental implications.
4. Moreover, taking into account its mandate as well as the useful experience of its preceding meeting, the Economic Forum will:
 - (a) Review the implementation of commitments in the economic dimension, devoting for this work two days, i.e. 4 and 5 June 1998;
 - (b) Adopt a tentative programme for economic dimension seminars to be held in 1998/99; and
 - (c) Review the seminars held under the economic dimension in 1997.
5. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level by officials responsible for shaping international economic policy in the OSCE area, as well as to include representatives from the private sector in their delegations.
6. As in previous years, the format of the Economic Forum should foresee the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions.

7. The following international organizations are invited to participate in and contribute to the 1998 Economic Forum: Council of Europe, Energy Charter Secretariat, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Trade Organization.

8. The partners for co-operation (Japan and the Republic of Korea) and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia) are invited to attend the meeting.

9. Upon request by a Delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings may also be invited, as appropriate, to attend the Sixth Economic Forum.

10. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs (15) and (16) of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the area under discussion are free, after registering with the OSCE Secretariat, to attend and contribute to the meeting.

11. The Chairman of the Forum will present his/her summary conclusions from the discussions at the end of the meeting.

Chairman's Statement

The Polish Chairmanship takes favourable note of the fact that the incoming Norwegian Chairmanship expressed its interest in the issue of the environment, which was discussed during preparations for the Sixth Meeting of the Economic Forum, as a prospective topic for the Seventh Meeting of the Forum.