
Bulgarian Chairmanship**491st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 22 January 2004

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 1.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Petrov

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE IRISH MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, H.E. MR. DICK ROCHE, T.D.

Chairperson, Irish Minister for European Affairs (PC.DEL/15/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/28/04), Russian Federation, Azerbaijan (also on behalf of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/34/04), Norway, Turkey (PC.DEL/16/04), Romania (PC.DEL/31/04 Restr.), Holy See, Belarus, Armenia, Albania (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro) (PC.DEL/30/04), Switzerland, Canada

Prior to taking up agenda item 2, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed condolences to the families of victims of the drowning incident off the coast of Albania on 9 January 2004, the plane crash in Uzbekistan on 13 January 2004 and the cargo ship accident off the coast of Norway on 20 January 2004. Albania, Uzbekistan and Norway thanked the Chairperson.

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *Pardoning of prisoners in Azerbaijan:* United States of America (PC.DEL/29/04), Canada, Azerbaijan

(b) *Repeal of the exit visa requirement in Turkmenistan:* Turkmenistan (PC.DEL/19/04 Restr.), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and

Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/26/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/37/04), Canada (also on behalf of Norway and Switzerland), Russian Federation, Turkey

- (c) *Cases of death in detention and the issue of torture in Uzbekistan:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/27/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/36/04), Switzerland, Turkey, Canada, Uzbekistan
- (d) *Media situation in Tajikistan:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/25/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/35/04), Tajikistan
- (e) *International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015:* Tajikistan (PC.DEL/20/04)
- (f) *9 January 2004 incident off the coast of Albania:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/21/04), Russian Federation, Albania (PC.DEL/40/04)
- (g) *Abolition of the death penalty in Turkey:* Turkey (PC.DEL/17/04), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/22/04), Norway
- (h) *Death penalty in the United States of America:* Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/24/04), Switzerland, United States of America
- (i) *Case of S. Duvanov in Kazakhstan:* Kazakhstan, Ireland-European Union (with the acceding countries Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in alignment) (PC.DEL/23/04), Canada
- (j) *Non-participation of Armenian military officers in a NATO meeting, held in Baku from 13 to 15 January 2004:* Armenia, Turkey, Azerbaijan
- (k) *Ratification of two Council of Europe conventions on human rights and torture by Serbia and Montenegro:* Serbia and Montenegro (PC.DEL/39/04), Ireland-European Union (PC.DEL/33/04)

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

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the
Chairman-in-Office: Chairperson*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/10/04 Restr.): Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Local elections in Turkey on 28 March 2004: Turkey (PC.DEL/18/04)*
- (b) *General elections in Spain on 14 March 2004: Spain*
- (c) *Position paper regarding secularism in France (SEC.DEL/7/04): France*
- (d) *Matters of protocol: Chairperson, Dean of the Permanent Council
(Azerbaijan), Spain*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 January 2004 at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal