

Chairmanship: Ireland

901st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 9 February 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.20 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. O’Leary

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Rule of law in Uzbekistan:* Denmark-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/108/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/98/12), Uzbekistan (PC.DEL/109/12 OSCE+)
- (b) *Treatment of children from the Russian Federation adopted in the United States of America:* United States of America (PC.DEL/97/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/110/12 OSCE+)
- (c) *Arrest of opposition leaders and freedom of expression in Kazakhstan:* Denmark-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/107/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/101/12), Kazakhstan

- (d) *Death sentences in Belarus*: Denmark-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/106/12), Belarus
- (e) *The death penalty in the United States of America*: Denmark-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/105/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/99/12)
- (f) *Final Human Rights Assessment of the Events of 19 December 2010 in Minsk, Belarus, issued by the Special Rapporteur on the Events of 19 December 2010 of the Committee on International Control over the Human Rights Situation in Belarus*: Denmark-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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/104/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/100/12), Belarus

Agenda item 2: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Addresses by the Chairperson-in-Office to the United States Helsinki Commission and to the United Nations Security Council, delivered on 8 and 9 February 2012, respectively*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/13/12)
- (b) *Meeting between the Chairperson-in-Office and the United States Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. W. Burns, on 8 February 2012*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/13/12)
- (c) *First preparatory meeting of the twentieth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, entitled Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, held in Vienna on 6 and 7 February 2012*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/13/12)
- (d) *Visit of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process, Mr. E. Fouéré, to Chisinau and Tiraspol*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/13/12)

- (e) *Visit of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, Ms. J. Zeitlin, to Vienna and Warsaw: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/13/12)*

Agenda item 3: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/19/12 OSCE+): Secretary General*
- (b) *48th Munich Security Conference, held in Munich from 3 to 5 February 2012: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/19/12 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Meeting with heads of delegations of the Asian Partners for Co-operation, held on 2 February 2012: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/19/12 OSCE+)*
- (d) *2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Strengthening Security through Regional Co-operation: The OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co-Operation, to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 13 and 14 February 2012: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/19/12 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners, to be held in Vienna on 16 February 2012: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/19/12 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015: United States of America (PC.DEL/102/12)*
- (b) *Follow-up to the recommendations contained in the ODIHR report on the presidential and municipal elections held in Bulgaria on 23 and 30 October 2011: Bulgaria (PC.DEL/103/12)*
- (c) *Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE consecutive chairmanships in 2014 and 2015: Lithuania (Annex)*
- (d) *Organizational matters related to the meeting of the Permanent Council to be held on 16 February 2012: Chairperson*
- (e) *Informal consultations on the legal status of the OSCE, held in Vienna on 8 and 9 February 2012: Chairperson*
- (f) *Excursion for diplomats hosted by the Government of Austria, to take place on 29 June 2012: Chairperson*
- (g) *2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Strengthening Security through Regional Co-operation: The OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co-operation, to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 13 and 14 February 2012: Chairperson*

- (h) *Donors gathering meeting on extrabudgetary projects on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, to be held in Vienna on 10 February 2012: Chairperson*
- (i) *Contributions to extrabudgetary projects pledged by Ireland: Chairperson*
- (j) *Commemorative postage stamp marking Ireland's Chairmanship of the OSCE: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 16 February 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/901
9 February 2012
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

901st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 901, Agenda item 4(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of the OSCE Permanent Council,

I am taking the floor today to speak on behalf of my Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Audronius Ažubalis.

Building consensus was the trademark of the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE, were it the water projects in Georgia or selection of the Secretary-General or the Human Dimension agenda. Putting aside national agendas, we had sought to implement our commitments and the Astana tasking. It was with the genuine commitment that the Lithuanian Chairmanship negotiated, in earnest and late into the night of the Vilnius Ministerial meeting, the decision on the OSCE Consecutive Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015.

It is highly regrettable that one participating State aspiring to chair the OSCE has lately demonstrated the tendency to disregard rules and traditions as well as consensus building in another forum where compromise and consensus building are of no less importance.

We refuse to give in to the logic of rules breaking and playing tit-for-tat. We also refuse to accept the logic of “withdraw or else...” which some among this membership are trying to impose on us. The logic of ultimatums and pressure is not what this Organization stands for.

In the past, this Organization was essential in giving voice to the then captive nations like mine and in promoting democracy and rules-based behavior on the European continent and beyond.

In full respect of the democratic principles and rules-based behavior and considering the role this Organization has played and continues to play in helping countries and regions to deal with the challenges of confidence building, sustaining democracy and protecting human rights, we shall not undertake measures which would hinder this organization’s work.

Not because we are giving in to pressure from some quarters. And not because we would doubt our strength to stand up to the efforts by some to limit the exercise of our full membership rights.

We do so because we care for and believe in this organization.

And it is because we care for and believe in this organization that we are compelled to draw the attention of its members to the potential risks and consequences of putting at its helm a country whose leadership is having a clear difficulty playing by the rules.

We cannot help but question in principle whether anyone willing for personal ambition to disregard the need for consensus, which is cardinal to the functioning of this organization, will be ready to chair the OSCE. Will the OSCE be better off with a Chair who prefers division over consensus and is ready to forge ahead in spite of broader group interests?

However, it is a collective decision and collective responsibility. As a participating State we stand by and honour our commitments, and will continue to act in a transparent, principled and rules-based manner, for the sake of the broader goals and objectives of this organisation.

In the interests of the OSCE and with a hope that all the future chairs-in-office will live up to the expectations of a fair, constructive, and consensual cooperation among all member states, Lithuania is not breaking the silence procedure regarding the future OSCE Chairmanships.

Do not be mistaken. It is not an easy decision for us because we are well aware of the implications of this chairmanship for the Organization as a whole. However, we choose to believe in the Serbia of tomorrow and hope that Serbia's OSCE chairmanship will contribute to strengthening Serbia's European vocation and commitment to democratic values and rules-based approach. We also hope that Serbia will do its absolute utmost in pursuing peace-building efforts in the Balkan region.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to respectfully request that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.