



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

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DECISION No. 637
**ENHANCED CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION FOR
SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE) AND THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE)**

The Permanent Council,

Acknowledging the commonality of aims of the OSCE and the Council of Europe as laid down in the Charter for European Security and other OSCE agreed documents and decisions, as well as in the statutory provisions of the Council of Europe,

Recalling the Platform for Co-operative Security and the pledge by participating States to further strengthen and develop co-operation between the OSCE and the other international organizations and institutions, thereby making better use of the resources of the international community,

Recognizing in this respect the importance of the multifaceted co-operation with the Council of Europe, which brings together European countries on the basis of their shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights,

Welcoming the OSCE and the Council of Europe common determination to strengthen their co-operation in pursuing the strategic objective of building a continent without dividing lines,

Reaffirming the importance of involving the OSCE participating States and the CoE member States more actively in enhancing the co-operation between the two organizations,

Acknowledging that both organizations, based on their comparative advantages and distinctive tasks, recognize that there is scope for enhanced co-operation to ensure that the CoE and the OSCE complement and reinforce each other to fully meet the expectations of the OSCE participating States and the CoE member States, and to avoid unnecessary duplication,

Decides to establish a Co-ordination Group consisting of Permanent Representatives from the Troika of the OSCE (preceding, current and incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE), the current and incoming chair of the CoE, open to Permanent Representatives of the countries in the Bureau of the CoE, the chair of the CoE GR-OSCE, as well as representatives from the Secretariats of the two organizations;

Furthermore decides that the Troika of the OSCE, through the Chairmanship will, on a regular basis, bring to the attention of the Permanent Council any issue relating to the improvement of the co-operation between the two organizations. In order to ensure the necessary policy guidance from the participating States, as well as full transparency, discussions in the Permanent Council on such issues should take place at least before and after each meeting of the Co-ordination Group;

Also decides that:

- The Co-ordination Group will meet as necessary and at least every six months. The meetings will be hosted alternately by the OSCE and the CoE;
- The Co-ordination Group, will act under the supervision of the decision-making bodies of the two organizations and be assisted by the Secretariats, which will be responsible for preparing these meetings in co-operation with the current Chairmanships of the OSCE and the CoE;
- The Co-ordination Group will examine co-operation between the two organizations and make proposals for concrete follow-up. The Group will focus on co-operation in areas identified as priorities by both sides and subject to review. Focal points from the two sides will be appointed in the selected areas. They will liaise with each other and propose to the Co-ordination Group concrete ideas for improving co-operation. The focal points will be appointed from within existing structures, staff and budgets;

The Co-ordination Group will also make proposals for the joint meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be held no later than in April 2005 to prepare a possible document on enhancing the co-operation between the two organizations which could be signed at the Warsaw Summit on 16 and 17 May 2005;

High-level “2+2/3+3” meetings will take into account the feedback from the Co-ordination Group.