



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

PC.DEC/1026
15 December 2011

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894th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 894, Agenda item 17

**DECISION No. 1026
CLOSURE OF THE OSCE OFFICE IN ZAGREB**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling the Permanent Council's Decision No. 836, dated 21 December 2007, on the establishment of an OSCE Office in Zagreb,

Noting the latest Status Report of the Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb to the OSCE Permanent Council (PC.FR/23/11, dated 16 November 2011), outlining the progress achieved in both mandate-related areas and its conclusions regarding the implementation of the mandate,

Commending the OSCE Office in Zagreb and its staff for the efficient manner in which it has discharged its functions, in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Croatia,

Welcomes the success achieved by the OSCE Office in Zagreb in implementing its mandate, as well as the progress made by the host country, and decides to close the OSCE Office in Zagreb at the expiration of its mandate, on 31 December 2011;

Requests the Head of the Office, with the assistance of the OSCE Secretariat, to complete all the required procedures related to the closure of the OSCE Office in Zagreb by 31 March 2012;

Decides, on an exceptional basis and as a transitional measure designed to further strengthen local ownership of war crimes trial monitoring, to authorize the Secretary General, without any prejudice to the existing mandates, to implement the activities on NGO capacity-building for monitoring war crimes trials in Croatia, as presented in document CIO.GAL/242/11, dated 2 December 2011, from 1 January 2012 until 31 December 2012, to be funded from the 2012 Unified Budget and other sources, as appropriate;

Tasks the Secretary General with circulating a revised 2012 Unified Budget Proposal reflecting the financial implications of the closure of the OSCE Office in Zagreb and the implementation of the activities presented in the document CIO.GAL/242/11, dated 2 December 2011.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the European Union:

“The European Union welcomes the decision of the Permanent Council to close the OSCE Office in Zagreb.

We also welcome the constructive approach displayed by the Croatian authorities throughout the entire process of preparations of this decision.

The EU stresses that the procedures foreseen in this decision for OSCE activities in Croatia following the closure of the OSCE Office in Zagreb are of an exceptional character and do not create a precedent for OSCE activities in the future. The adoption of this decision is without prejudice to the autonomy and mandates of OSCE executive structures.

In this context we expect that the relevant OSCE executive structures will ensure the effective implementation of activities mandated by this decision.

The EU requests that this interpretative statement is appended to this decision and also to the journal of the day.

The acceding country Croatia¹, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.”

1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.