



**400th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 400, Agenda item 2(a)

**DECISION No. 485  
OSCE STATEMENTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that the OSCE's effectiveness also depends on public knowledge of its work, and that public statements on behalf of the OSCE and public information of its activities can further greater public understanding and support for OSCE activities, which is vital for successful work of the Organization as a whole,

Bearing in mind that OSCE institutions and field operations in pursuit of their respective mandates interact on a day-to-day basis with the public in order, *inter alia*, to keep it well informed of their activities,

In order to streamline the OSCE's publicity practices,

Decides to adopt the following principles to provide for the consistency and transparency of the OSCE's policy on public outreach:

1. Formal OSCE positions are expressed in decisions, statements and documents adopted by the decision-making bodies on the basis of consensus;
2. Public statements on behalf of the OSCE as a whole are made by the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General and by their authorized official representatives;
3.
  - (a) Heads of the OSCE field operations and institutions and their authorized representatives may make public statements on behalf of their field operations and institutions. Such statements should immediately be transmitted to national delegations in Vienna;
  - (b) Their statements and public outreach activities are to be made in line with their mandates and should not be inconsistent with OSCE consensus positions;
4. Statements of the Chairman-in-Office or any other OSCE official made in their national or personal capacity, or explaining their national or personal positions or opinions, should be clearly identified as such;

5. In summarizing the results of discussions at the Permanent Council or the Ministerial Council, the Chairman-in-Office or his representative is expected to take into account the entire spectrum of expressed opinions, if necessary, following consultations with the participating States;
6. Publications and press releases of the Press and Public Information Section of the Secretariat should not be inconsistent with consensus decisions and documents;
7. The Press and Public Information Section in the OSCE Secretariat should act as a focal point for timely co-ordination for public statements issued by the Chairman-in-Office, OSCE institutions and field operations to promote consistency with OSCE consensus positions. Maximum transparency of views should also be ensured. The Press and Public Information Section of the OSCE Secretariat is also requested to present proposals on the improvement of the quality of the OSCE press clippings in order to ensure the presentation of the maximum spectrum of views relevant to the OSCE agenda and correctness of publication of its media outlets compilation;
8. Information from external sources, including statements of international conferences and organizations relevant to OSCE activities, can be published by the OSCE, including through the Internet. Materials irrelevant to those activities or inconsistent with OSCE consensus positions should not be published by the OSCE or linked to its websites;
9. The Secretary General should report on the application of this Decision periodically and is invited to include proposals for additional measures related to OSCE public statements and on greater public access to information about the OSCE.

PC.DEC/485  
28 June 2002  
Attachment 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT  
UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE  
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision at the reinforced meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on OSCE statements and public information, I should like to make the following interpretative statement on behalf of the Republic of Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus believes that in the absence of a consensus in the OSCE on a particular question, the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the heads of OSCE institutions and field missions as well as their authorized representatives should take into account and reflect the entire spectrum of opinions of OSCE participating States in their statements and public information.

We request that this statement be attached to the Journal of today’s meeting.”

PC.DEC/485  
28 June 2002  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT  
UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE  
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union:

“The European Union accepts that statements should not contradict relevant decisions, documents or positions which have been agreed by consensus. They do not restrict the making of statements on matters on which no relevant consensus decisions, documents or positions have been agreed.”