



Second day of the Thirty-First Meeting
MC(31) Journal, Agenda item 7

DECISION No. 3/24
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the 1990 Charter of Paris and the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Reaffirming the necessity that the Director of the ODIHR carries out her functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the ODIHR,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/23, the term of office of the Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Matteo Mecacci, came to an end on 3 September 2024,

Decides to appoint Ms. Maria Telalian as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 6 December 2024.

MC.DEC/3/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**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 delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Ms. Maria Telalian. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the ODIHR. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the Director of the ODIHR in the full exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States regrets that participating States failed to adopt this decision before the previous ODIHR Director’s term expired on 3 September. We underscore that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments and decisions. It is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/3/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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 delegation of Sweden (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania and Switzerland):

“In relation to the decision on the appointment of the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and Sweden:

We reiterate our gratitude to Malta’s Chairmanship for their leadership in forging consensus on critical issues, thereby enhancing the OSCE’s effectiveness.

We welcome the appointment of Ms. Maria Telalian as Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We regret that consensus on the leadership of the Organization could not be reached earlier, leading to extended vacancies in these critical positions. This should not set a precedent for future similar decisions.

We reiterate the importance of co-operative decisions on the leadership of the Organization and the autonomous institutions that should be based on individual candidates and their ability to support OSCE principles and commitments. As participating States, we should avoid politicization of the consensus-based process and return to the spirit of multilateralism that guides our collaborative decision process.

Furthermore, we as participating States should strive to ensure gender equality in the leadership of the Organization, including by putting forward more women as candidates.

In connection to the decision on the appointment of the Director of the ODIHR, we would reiterate our strong support for the ODIHR’s mandate and autonomous work in the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. We also recall the ODIHR’s election observation mandate and note that the ODIHR’s election observation methodology is based on the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism, is applied in the same manner in all participating States, and is globally recognized. We highlight the crucial role of its Director in exercising the ODIHR’s mandate.

In recent years, some participating States have misused consensus to prevent the allocation of resources to the third dimension. We reiterate our position that the OSCE should have adequate resources to fulfil its mandate across all three dimensions.

We would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/3/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**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 delegation of the United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the approval of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United Kingdom joins the consensus on the appointment of Ms. Maria Telalian as Director of the ODIHR and wishes her every success in the role. The ODIHR’s role is a manifestation of the principle that lasting security can only be achieved through respect for human rights and strong democratic institutions. The United Kingdom fully respects the autonomy of the ODIHR and calls on all participating States to offer their full support to the new Director in taking forward her mandate. We urge participating States to ensure the ODIHR is adequately financed to fulfil its mandate.

We note that, alongside the appointments to other OSCE leadership positions, this decision supports the predictability and stability of the OSCE over the coming three years.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included in the journal of the day.”