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**Chairmanship: Greece****750th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 12 February 2009

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE, Ambassador Fredericka Gregory.

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF PC DECISION  
No. 861 OF 19 AUGUST 2008

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 883 (PC.DEC/883), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the extension of PC Decision No. 861 of 19 August 2008.

Czech Republic-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine and Moldova, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Switzerland (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Azerbaijan, Georgia (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Greece (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 7 to the decision), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Legislation in Kazakhstan*: Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/97/09), Czech Republic-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/93/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/96/09)
- (b) *Recent developments in Georgia*: Czech Republic-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/91/09), Canada (PC.DEL/100/09), Georgia, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/90/09 OSCE+), Switzerland
- (c) *Death penalty in the United States of America*: Czech Republic-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/92/09), United States of America (PC.DEL/95/09)

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in the 45th Munich Security Conference*: Chairperson
- (b) *Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office*: Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/22/09 OSCE+)*: Secretary General

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Upcoming general elections in Iceland*: Iceland (PC.DEL/98/09)

- (b) *Organizational matters related to the eighth Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to be held on 19 and 20 February 2009:*  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in Moldova, to be held on 5 April 2009:* Moldova  
(PC.DEL/99/09)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 February 2009, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009

Original: ENGLISH

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**750th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 750, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 883  
EXTENSION OF PC DECISION No. 861 OF 19 AUGUST 2008**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend until 30 June 2009, its Decision No. 861 of 19 August 2008,  
without prejudice to any further PC decisions on the future OSCE presence.

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
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 Czech Republic, on behalf of the European Union:

“The European Union would like to reiterate its position, expressed on 19 August 2008, that it is its wish that it be possible for the observers to carry out their activities also in South Ossetia/Georgia.

I should like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
Attachment 2

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

**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 Switzerland:

“A comprehensive OSCE mission would be the right instrument to ensure the necessary stability in the Georgian conflict area: on the one hand, because of the multidimensional security concept of the OSCE, which allows conflict prevention and reconstruction at the same time, and, on the other hand, because of the experience that our Organization has already gathered in the area.

A technical extension of the current presence of military monitoring officers, as foreseen by the decision just adopted, does not meet our expectations. Although the military monitoring officers play an important role, their area of operation should extend beyond the administrative border to cover the entire Georgian conflict area. Their number should be increased. Furthermore, the military monitoring should be supplemented by activities in the second and third dimension if it is to really meet the region's needs.

Switzerland agreed to this decision because it did not want to prevent a consensus on a technical extension. It expresses its disappointment, however, that so far it has not been possible to arrive at a truly satisfactory solution.

We call on the Greek Chairmanship not to let up in its efforts to seek a genuine solution that takes all aspects into account.

Switzerland requests the Chairmanship to attach this statement to the decision and the journal of the day.”

**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 Chairwoman.

The United States supports this decision as a temporary measure designed to provide more time to negotiate the future of an OSCE presence in Georgia, including in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. We believe the OSCE presence should include a monitoring function.

We also see nothing in this decision which would prevent the military monitoring officers (MMOs) from fulfilling the full range of their responsibilities. This includes monitoring compliance with the August 12 Saakashvili-Medvedev cease-fire and September 8 implementation agreements, to include the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

We continue to believe that our military monitoring officers should have full access to the whole of Georgia, with particular focus on the conflict zones, to include the South Ossetian region of Georgia. This is in keeping with the September 8 implementation agreement, which states that OSCE monitors should continue to carry out their responsibilities in conformance with their personnel and deployment scheme as it was on August 7, and we regret that the Russian Federation continues to stand isolated in this forum in opposing decisions which would authorize their return.

We expect the Russian Federation officials and local militias to ensure the protection of the MMOs and to take measures to prevent harassment of and attacks on the monitors, such as those which have recently seen.

We also see nothing in this agreement that would absolve the parties to the conflict from their responsibilities to honour their commitment to withdraw to pre-August 7 lines — that is, the lines where they were stationed prior to the beginning of hostilities — and to honour all other commitments undertaken in the August 12 Saakashvili-Medvedev cease-fire and the September 8 implementation agreements. In particular, the Russian Federation continues to maintain forces near the town of Perevi, in the Akhgori region, and in the Upper Kodori Valley, areas that were never controlled by Russia or the separatists prior to the August war.

We also expect the Russian Federation to honour its commitment to provide full access for humanitarian operations throughout Georgia. Withdrawal of Russian forces to pre-August 7 lines will allow for the more rapid re-establishment of normal, civilian policing.

The United States reiterates that the Russian Federation remains responsible for protecting human rights and enforcing the rule of law in the regions where its troops continue to be deployed, and it must assume responsibility for the actions of the militia active in the South Ossetian region.

The United States also holds the view that PC Decision No. 861 of August 19, 2008 created an independent mandate for the twenty MMOs, and that nothing in this decision changes that fact.

Madam Chairwoman, we request that this interpretive statement be duly registered and appended to this decision and also to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.”



PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
Attachment 4

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 Georgia:

“Georgia has supported the consensus on Decision No. 883 with the firm understanding that the extended period of validity of Decision No. 861 of 19 August 2008 is to be intensively used for adopting a new decision of the Permanent Council on the modalities of deployment of the remaining 80 MMOs, as stipulated in the second and fourth paragraphs of Decision No. 861.

Georgia continues to interpret Decision No. 861 of 19 August 2008 as a framework allowing all the MMOs to conduct their activities throughout the whole territory of Georgia, including the Tskhinvali Region.”

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
Attachment 5

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 Greece:

“This Decision was adopted taking into account the expiration of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia on 31 December 2008 and the need to finalize a corresponding budget proposal for the administrative closure of the Mission.

The Chairmanship tasks the Secretary General with submitting a budget proposal for the functioning of such an operation as a separate part of the 2009 Unified Budget.

This interpretative statement is to be attached to the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
Attachment 6

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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

On behalf of the Russian Federation:

“Agreeing with today’s decision of the Permanent Council, the Russian Federation assumes that it does not affect other decisions (or their absence) on OSCE field presences in the region.

In the light of the new politico-legal realities in the region, the Russian Federation is guided by the understanding that this decision of the Permanent Council refers only to the activities of the twenty (20) OSCE military monitoring officers operating in the areas adjacent to South Ossetia. One of the main tasks of the monitors should be to follow and inform the participating States of the security situation in the districts of Georgia bordering South Ossetia, including monitoring of Georgia’s obligation to return its troops and military equipment to their places of permanent deployment. This function is fully consistent with the agreements reached by Russia and France, at the time holding the Presidency of the European Union, of 12 August and 8 September 2008.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted and be included in the journal of today’s meeting.”

PC.DEC/883  
12 February 2009  
Attachment 7

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 Canada:

“Madam Chairperson,

In accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure, Paragraph IV.1(A)6, my delegation would like to make an interpretative statement with respect to the decision just adopted by the Permanent Council (PC Decision No. 883 of 12 February 2009) on the extension of the mandate for our OSCE military observers in Georgia, and to request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day, and to the decision in question.

Canada wishes to congratulate the Greek OSCE Chairmanship for their success in brokering this delicate compromise.

It is our understanding that this compromise decision we have reached buys us time to come to a better understanding of, and consensus on, the mandate that would give the OSCE a more comprehensive and meaningful presence on the ground in Georgia. This mandate should include unhindered access to all of Georgia’s war-affected regions so that the OSCE can do its job, and can continue to contribute to the Geneva Process.

Thank you.”