



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

PC.DEC/411
31 May 2001

Original: ENGLISH

339th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 339, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 411
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 193, dated 5 November 1997, on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Further, recalling the decision of the Copenhagen 1997 Ministerial Council (MC(6).DEC/1) on the appointment of Mr. Freimut Duve as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Taking into consideration the decision of the Vienna 2000 Ministerial Council (MC(8).DEC/3),

Underlining the important contribution of Mr. Freimut Duve to the promotion of the freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area,

Recommends to the Ministerial Council that it extends the mandate of Mr. Freimut Duve as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to 31 December 2003.

PC.DEC/411
31 May 2001
Attachment 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

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

By the Delegation of the Russian Federation:

“The Russian Federation agrees to the extension of Mr. F. Duve’s tenure in office as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and expects that the work of this important institution will cover the entire range of issues related to the functioning of independent and pluralistic media in the whole area of OSCE responsibility, without any geographical selectivity. The Russian Federation presumes that Mr. Duve will conduct his work in strict accordance with the given mandate and direct his activities at practical assistance to the participating States in a spirit of co-operation and dialogue based on equality, reflecting the character and political nature of the OSCE and in keeping with the spirit and letter of numerous decisions of the Organization.

The Russian Federation requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the Journal of the day of the Permanent Council.”

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

By the Delegation of Ukraine:

“With regard to the Decision just adopted, at the request of my Government, I would like to make the following statement.

1. Ukraine considers it to be of the utmost importance for all OSCE institutions to follow the relevant mandates strictly. This rule must be rigorously applied as well to the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.
2. The elimination of double standards from the life of the OSCE is an important precondition for successful functioning of both the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE as a whole. The Representative’s Office is meant to react to infringements of the freedom of the media and of journalists’ right to perform their professional duties freely, regardless of the OSCE participating State’s geographical location or the political weight it enjoys.
3. We are strongly convinced that the time has come to shift the priorities in the OSCE Representative’s activities. To date, the Office is devoting attention to the so to speak critical component aimed at a fixation of existing problems, in particular with a view to the prevention of possible crises in the sphere of freedom of the media. But this is obviously not sufficient. The Office should render comprehensive practical assistance to the OSCE participating States that need it to solve problems identified, including through the training of journalists.

Please attach this statement to the Journal of the day.”