

2nd of the Twelfth Meeting

MC(12) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 10/04
IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the OSCE economic and environmental dimension (EED),

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Strategy Document),

Welcomes the progress achieved in the ongoing process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum, as outlined in the Annex.

Tasks the Permanent Council, through its Economic and Environmental Subcommittee and with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), to continue its work on enhancement of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension and to periodically review the progress achieved. In particular, a report of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee focusing on issues of further improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum should be submitted to the Permanent Council preferably not later than by 15 June 2005.

The Economic Forum should become a more effective tool for promoting the implementation of the Strategy Document and other EED documents. The structure, format and content of the Economic Forum should reflect the provisions of the Strategy Document and other EED documents.

The theme(s) of each meeting of the Economic Forum should focus on issues where the OSCE can provide added value and should be selected among the priority areas defined by the Strategy Document, allowing thus for better and more comprehensive, thorough, streamlined and result oriented discussions. The Economic Forum will endeavour to treat economic and environmental subjects in a balanced manner.

The Economic Forum should strengthen its role in providing a framework for political dialogue among the participating States on key issues regarding the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE and should become more policy oriented and focus on practical proposals, building upon the work done during the preparatory process.

The Economic Forum should provide a framework for a more effective participation of officials and experts from the participating States, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, financial institutions, representatives of academic and business circles, as well as NGOs.

The relationship between the Forum and the preparatory seminars has to be improved, with due attention to the number of seminars, their location and format. Special attention should be given to translating ideas and proposals voiced at the Forum into reality.

The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, under the guidance of the Permanent Council, has a leading role in providing guidance for the substantive preparation of the Forum as well as for the follow-up activities.

The review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments should be substantially updated and improved. Relevant provisions of the Strategy Document and other EED documents should be applied. The review of commitments should be done in co-operation with other international organizations, as appropriate, and in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in accordance with the OSCE/UNECE Memorandum of Understanding. A more comprehensive and forward looking report should be prepared and distributed well in advance of the Forum. It should address the status of implementation of a specific cluster of commitments, obstacles encountered, best practices identified, follow-up action needed and possible OSCE assistance to participating States. Given the importance of this session, the time allocated to the review part of the Forum should be increased up to two working days.

In planning and conducting the meetings of the Economic Forums as well as of the preparatory seminars, the Chairmanship and the OCEEAA, following the guidance of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, will pay due attention to further improving the quality of deliberations.