

1488th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1488, Agenda item 5

DECISION No. 1487
2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LANGUAGE
SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Acknowledging that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and noting the need to continue some of these discussions,

Reiterating the importance of Permanent Council Decisions No. 486 of 28 June 2002 and No. 553 of 27 June 2003,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2024 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

Further acknowledging that the discussions on the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, distributed on 2 July 2024 under PC.ACMF/21/24, are still ongoing in the ACMF, and given that this document is subject to agreement by the Permanent Council,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.04 – Provisional Expenditure Authorization,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.01(b) – with reference to the authority of the Permanent Council to take decisions on all elements of the budget,

Takes note of the OSCE 2024 Year-End Financial Forecast report under PC.ACMF/25/24 of 18 July 2024;

Approves the additional provisional expenditure authorization of 1,166,300 euros for the activities of the Conference and Language Services Programme, on an exceptional basis, as set forth in the annex;

Determines that this additional provisional expenditure authorization shall be financed from the cash surplus reported in the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

<u>Fund</u>	Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Financial Regulation	Total Forecast Expenditure 2024	Estimated Year-End Balance C=A-B	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Provisional Expenditure Authorization E=A+D
Main Programme Programme	3.04*	A	B	C=A-B	D	E=A+D
<u>The Secretariat</u>						
Secretary General and Central Services						
Conference and Language Services		5,437,500	6,603,800	(1,166,300)	1,166,300	6,603,800
TOTAL ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION					1,166,300	

*Reflects provisional expenditure authorization until the end of 2024.

**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 Hungary (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine):

“The Member States of the European Union welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council decision granting an authorization of additional expenditure for Conference and Language Services (CLS).

Conference and Language Services enables the work of the entire OSCE and we must maintain the service level required to ensure that the Organization can function well. Through this decision we have avoided the risk of a sudden disruption to the functioning of meetings of the decision-making bodies all the way to the end of the year.

Going forward, the participating States should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to the CLS programme.

More generally, we call upon all the participating States to act consistently with their commitments and to provide the Organization with adequate means for implementing these, so as to allow the OSCE to function effectively in its three dimensions. We reiterate our urgent appeal to all the participating States to adopt a Unified Budget for 2024, and we stand ready to join consensus thereon as soon as possible.

Furthermore, several delegations have not been paying their contributions to the Unified Budget for two years now or even longer. At present, these delegations are therefore enjoying conference-related and linguistic services free of charge. We call upon these delegations to demonstrate responsibility and pay their contributions to the Unified Budget, thereby putting into practice their commitment to the Organization.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹, Albania¹, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina¹ and Georgia, the European Free Trade

1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.”

PC.DEC/1487
19 September 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 Canada:

“Madam Chairperson,

Regarding decisions PC.DD/19/24 on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services (CLS) programme, and PC.DD/18/24 on the appointment of the External Auditor, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Regarding the decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization for CLS, Canada supports the allocation of 1,166,300 euros on an exceptional basis, for the activities of the Conference and Language Services programme from the 2023 cash surplus. Support for the decision is in the better interest of the Organization. However, as a more sustainable solution, participating States should agree to a Unified Budget as a matter of urgency and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

We emphasize that the piecemeal approach of allocating resources is a bad financial management practice, is neither sustainable nor desirable, and should not become common practice.

We want to acknowledge the difficult situation that the lack of a Unified Budget creates for the well-being of OSCE staff. We thank them for their dedication and professionalism to our Organization.

Regarding decision PC.DD/18/24 of 10 September 2024 on the appointment of the External Auditor, we extend our gratitude to the Austrian Court of Audit, the *Rechnungshof*, and our host country for their generous offer to extend their mandate for another two years. We are pleased to support the decision as proposed by the Chairmanship.

We emphasize the need for participating States to return to the practice of appointing External Auditors in a timely fashion and for normal tenures of office, which according to Article VIII of the Financial Regulations, is three years.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to both decisions. Thank you.”

**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 Azerbaijan:

“In connection with the decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme adopted by the Permanent Council on an exceptional basis, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to make the following interpretative statement for the record.

The delegation of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on this decision on the basis of the understanding that the decision adopted today by the Permanent Council acknowledges that the discussions on the 2024 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions. This decision also acknowledges explicitly that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and notes the need to continue some of these discussions.

In this regard, the delegation of Azerbaijan reiterates its support for the early adoption of the Unified Budget, which would allocate the scarce financial resources of the OSCE where they are needed the most to fund the programmatic activities that are relevant and around which there is consensus. Dysfunctional, obsolete and irrelevant structures, namely the so-called ‘Minsk Process’, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and High-Level Planning Group, programmatic activities which are not agreed upon, must be removed from the budget. This will ensure that the Organization remains relevant, agile and continues to deliver.

The decision we have adopted today also acknowledges that the discussions on the 2023 Financial Report and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, distributed on 2 July 2024 under PC.ACMF/21/24, are still ongoing in the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) and that this document is subject to agreement by the Permanent Council.

Hence, the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, referred to in this decision, are not accepted by the Permanent Council. This document is subject to ongoing discussions in the ACMF and subject to agreement by the Permanent Council, in accordance with OSCE Financial Regulations 8.06(c), 8.06 (e) and 7.05.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the Permanent Council decision and to the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1487
19 September 2024
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 Armenia:

“In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme, the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia joins the consensus noting the efforts by the Chairmanship to find a solution to the outstanding issues, including the urgent need of additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme to ensure the smooth conduct of activities by Conference and Language Services.

We are deeply concerned that the primary cause of the current situation is the non-approval of the OSCE’s Unified Budget, which has been consistently blocked due to the unconstructive and maximalist approach of one participating State, which has chosen to exploit the budgetary process through blackmail and unsubstantiated demands.

Armenia reiterates its readiness to support early adoption of the Unified Budget based on OSCE working methods, commitments and decisions taken at the highest level, including those related to the Minsk Process, the High-Level Planning Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, the tasks, purposes and objectives of which have been explicitly defined and agreed upon by all participating States.

Armenia requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and to the journal of the day.”