

**Chairmanship: Ireland**

**911th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 10 May 2012

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. O'Leary

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the OSCE, Ambassador Costas A. Papademas.

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE OFFICE IN TAJIKISTAN

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan (PC.FR/10/12 OSCE+), Denmark-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/423/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/417/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/434/12 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/410/12), Turkey (PC.DEL/414/12), Switzerland, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/421/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS IN THE OSCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1040 (PC.DEC/1040) on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the OSCE, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Terrorist attacks in Makhachkala, Russian Federation, on 3 May 2012:* Denmark-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/422/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/419/12), Belarus (PC.DEL/412/12), Armenia, Chairperson, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/435/12)
- (b) *Freedom of assembly in the Russian Federation:* United States of America (PC.DEL/418/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/436/12)
- (c) *Parliamentary election in Armenia, held on 6 May 2012:* Denmark-European Union (PC.DEL/424/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/420/12), Belarus (PC.DEL/413/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/437/12), Armenia
- (d) *Parliamentary and presidential elections in Serbia, held on 6 May 2012:* Denmark-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/425/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/426/12), Albania (PC.DEL/411/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/438/12), Serbia (Annex), Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit by the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions to Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Sukhumi:* Chairperson
- (b) *Ambassadors' retreat held in Stegersbach, Austria, on 7 and 8 May 2012:* Chairperson
- (c) *Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom, to be held on 18 and 19 June 2012:* Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/12 OSCE+):* Secretary General

- (b) *Facilitation by the OSCE of voting in Kosovo in the forthcoming Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/12 OSCE+)
- (c) *Arrest of a staff member of the OSCE Mission to Serbia*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/12 OSCE+), Chairperson, Serbia, United States of America
- (d) *Announcement of the third meeting of the open-ended working group on the conflict cycle, to be held on 16 May 2012*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Symposium entitled A Changing European Union in a Changing World, to be held in Vienna on 11 May 2012; and Europe Day, celebrated on 9 May 2012*: Denmark-European Union
- (b) *Visit of a team of election experts from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to Sofia from 7 to 9 May 2012*: Bulgaria
- (c) *Discussions on transition aspects and OSCE engagement in Afghanistan at the 51st joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council, held on 9 May 2012, and at the meeting of the Security Committee to be held on 14 May 2012*: Chairperson
- (d) *Human Dimension Seminar entitled Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to be held in Warsaw from 14 to 16 May 2012*: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 17 May 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/911  
10 May 2012  
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

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**911th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 911, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Serbia fully subscribes to the EU statement on the Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections. Let me also add a few comments in my national capacity.

The Republic of Serbia expresses its satisfaction regarding the concluded parliamentary elections and the first round of early presidential elections. The elections were conducted in an open, fair and transparent manner and confirmed high standards and continued progress in addressing the prescribed recommendations.

We welcome the Preliminary Findings and Conclusions by the ODIHR, OSCE PA and PACE which listed a number of commendations and identified few areas for improvement, which we will reflect on after the issuance of the final report and inform the Human Dimension Committee and the Permanent Council respectively.

We expect the second round of presidential elections on 20 May to be held in the same spirit, as well as the prompt formation of new government which will continue the reform pace and euro-integration processes, further promote and actively work on regional stability and continue the co-operation with our partners.

We would also like to thank once again the OSCE for their facilitating role in conducting these elections in Kosovo and Metohija.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the same time, unfortunately, we are compelled to react to the statement just made by the Albanian Permanent Representative. We found that reasons stated in this statement regarding the condemnation of the arrests are completely unacceptable and we strongly reject all allegations.

During last several years, in the context of overall reforms and comprehensive implementation of European standards and strengthening rule of law, Serbian law enforcement agencies have intensified their actions in combating cases of corruption, organized crime and war crimes, always in line with the principles of transparency, civil

control of their work, as well as with provision of information of public relevance. These tasks have strictly been performed on the basis of rule of law and not on the basis of ethnicity or any other discriminatory grounds, let alone exercise of political influence. For that, we have been commended by all international organizations, including the European Commission.

At the same time, all relevant international stakeholders in Serbia are regularly updated on the activities regarding the work of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, either directly or through the National Council for Co-operation with ICTY. Enforcing law cannot simply take a break during election period and therefore, we believe it is unacceptable to bring the activities of this highly professional and internationally respected judicial institution in connection with any alleged notion of election manipulation.

Having concluded our obligation regarding extradition of war crime suspects, we welcome the continued co-operation with the ICTY in addressing the issue of war crimes in the region. In that context, we would also like to recall that since 2000, Serbia fully complied with the request that no war crimes suspects should be listed as eligible election candidates.

The arrested in this case are suspected of being members of the so called Liberation Army of Preševo, Medveđa and Bujanovac, illegal paramilitary formation which, during 2000 and 2001, perpetrated crimes against civil population in that region, among others by establishing prisons where both Serbian and Albanian nationals were imprisoned and tortured. Department of War Crimes of the Higher Court decided that the suspects remain in custody due to the severity of the alleged crimes and highly possible exercise of pressure on the witnesses.

In conclusion, we would like to add that such cases should not in any way be linked to and could endanger the process of integration of Albanian minority in Serbian institutions, which has been a subject of long-lasting substantial efforts both of the Republic of Serbia and the OSCE. We take this opportunity to reiterate our firm conviction that instead of issuing such inflammatory statements which cannot be helpful at all, to say the least, all of us present here should join our efforts in dealing with the root causes of these kinds of problems, both on national and regional level.

We ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.DEC/1040  
10 May 2012

Original: ENGLISH

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**911th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 911, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1040  
ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR  
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS IN THE OSCE**

The Permanent Council,

With reference to the Financial Regulations, particularly Regulation 7.01 “Preparation of the Accounts”, as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96), as well as to the Significant Accounting Policies as described in Note 1 of the annual Financial Statements, particularly that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS),

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

Taking note of the decision by the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 60/283 of July 2006, to approve the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) to replace the United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS),

Approves the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the OSCE;

Tasks the Secretariat to work towards gradual implementation of IPSAS with a target deadline of issuing IPSAS compliant Financial Statements for the 2014 financial year;

Requests the Secretary General to allocate the financial resources required to finance activities related to the adoption of IPSAS in the OSCE from existing Unified Budget resources.