



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 4/07
OSCE ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHANISTAN

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the request by Afghanistan (PC.DEL/922/07 from 21 September 2007) that the OSCE provide assistance to the country in the fields of border security, police training and combating drug trafficking,

Seriously concerned that the situation in Afghanistan is having an impact on security in the OSCE area,

Recognizing the primary role of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining global security and stability, and with a view to supporting the goals set forth in the Afghanistan Compact, agreed to at the London Conference on Afghanistan in 2006,

Acknowledging the contribution of the United Nations as well as of regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and of other international organizations, such as, *inter alia*, NATO, EU, CSTO and other relevant international actors as well as participating States actively engaged in Afghanistan and desirous of complementing their efforts also in order to avoid unnecessary duplication,

Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which states the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Also recalling the 1999 Charter for European Security, which states that “the OSCE is the inclusive and comprehensive organization for consultation, decision-making and co-operation in its region”,

Taking into consideration the status of Afghanistan as a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE, and recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Maastricht, which states that “the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action”,

* Incorporates a reissue of attachment 1.

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 of 2 December 2003 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 of 7 December 2004,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/05, encouraging the Partners for Co-operation to implement voluntarily the OSCE commitments to combat the threat of illicit drugs,

Recalling the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, adopted in 2005 at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Ljubljana, which states that the provisions of the Concept will be shared by the Partners for Co-operation, on a voluntary basis,

Taking note of the OSCE project to train Afghanistan's anti-drug police officers in Domodedovo, launched on 12 November 2007,

Convinced that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan is of the utmost importance for the OSCE region, in particular for Central Asia,

Stressing the particular responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan for security and stability in the country and the important role of the International Security Assistance Forces in assisting Afghan authorities on these matters,

Underscoring the importance of contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, illegal drugs, and human beings,

1. Within available resources, tasks the Secretary General with examining the prospects for intensifying OSCE action to support measures for securing the borders between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan in line with the objectives and principles set forth in the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept;
2. Further tasks the Secretary General with exploring all possible co-operation options, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and other actors, and making proposals, as appropriate, for further actions by the Permanent Council;
3. Encourages the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, in consultation with their host governments, to intensify the involvement of Afghan counterparts in their relevant activities;
4. Tasks the Secretary General with providing support for intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities, such as those related to the fields of border security and management, policing and the fight against drug trafficking, and those at the educational and training facilities in Central Asia and in the rest of the OSCE area, and with developing specific projects and programmes for Afghan counterparts in the OSCE area, as necessary and without unnecessary duplication of existing efforts, including those of international actors such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime;

5. Encourages the Secretary General and OSCE field operations in Central Asia to co-ordinate with relevant regional organizations with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication and reinforce mutual efforts;
6. Endorses the Permanent Council Decision on combating the threat of illicit drugs, *inter alia* tasking the Secretary General with conducting in 2008 a follow-up training project for Afghanistan's anti-drug police officers in Domodedovo;
7. Encourages the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute to activities in the above-mentioned fields;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council with remaining seized of the matter and with researching and evaluating options for future engagement with Afghanistan upon its request.

**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 Netherlands:

“While it has joined the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan, the Netherlands deplors the fact that, during the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid, the participating States were not able to reach consensus on the report and its annex submitted by the Chairperson of the informal working group at expert level tasked with finalizing a draft convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. Adoption of the text of this draft convention without footnotes would have paved the way towards providing the OSCE with a legal personality and a legal status, thus giving the OSCE recognition as a fully fledged international organization.

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

* Reissued due to a technical error.

**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 Ukraine:

“In connection with the Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan, the Delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement:

Ukraine joins the consensus on this decision and welcomes its adoption. We have consistently supported the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and consider this activity as one of the OSCE’s priorities. We strongly believe that our Organization with its expertise and experience will make a significant contribution to securing and managing the borders between Afghanistan and the Central Asian participating States, in particular in the fields of policing, the fight against drug-trafficking, and illegal migration. We also support the active engagement of the international community in Afghanistan on the basis of the principle of complementarity and upon the request of the Afghan Government.

However, we would like to clarify our views in relation to the reference to international regional organizations in this or any other OSCE document. Development of co-operation between the OSCE and other international structures and/or acknowledgement of their contributions in the OSCE documents require an in-depth preliminary assessment of their purposes and role in the OSCE region with the participation of all sides concerned. Given the fact that during formal and informal consultations on the text of the said decision this rule was not followed with regard to one international regional organization, we emphasize that mentioning the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the text of the decision adopted does not establish a precedent.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”