

179th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 179, Agenda item 9

DECISION No. 249

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations (DOC.PC/1/96) as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996,

1. Approves the budget for 1998 critical tasks identified in the Information Systems Strategic Plan (SEC.GAL/19/98 Restr.), which was distributed by the Secretary General on 31 March 1998, in the amount of ATS 5,027,473. The budget will be implemented in accordance with the proposal (PC.IFC/44/98/Rev.1 Restr.) circulated by the Secretary General on 16 July 1998. The adoption of this budget does not prejudice the outcome of future discussions on any other draft budget related to the implementation of the Information Systems Strategic Plan in subsequent years. The maximum length of contracts for the positions of the two Business Analysts will be two years;
2. Approves the increase of the 1998 budget of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in the amount of ATS 660,000. The budget will be implemented in accordance with the proposal (PC.IFC/40/98 Restr.) circulated by the Secretary General on 9 June 1998;
3. Approves the increase of the 1998 budget of the ODIHR in the amount of ATS 6,374,600. The budget will be implemented in accordance with the proposal (PC.IFC/43/98/Rev.1 Restr.) circulated by the Secretary General on 22 July 1998;
4. Approves the budget in the amount of ATS 4,584,581 for the 1998 Human Dimension Implementation meeting in Warsaw and decides to reduce by ATS 100,000 the subprogramme "Conferences" of the main programme "Conference Services in Vienna" of the 1998 OSCE Unified Budget and to transfer these funds to the budget of the 1998 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. This budget will be implemented in accordance with the proposal (PC.IFC/48/98/Rev.1 Restr.) circulated by the Secretary General on 16 July 1998;
5. Approves the budget for the 1998 Ministerial Council Meeting in Oslo in the amount of ATS 2,805,478. The budget will be implemented in accordance with the proposal (PC.IFC/46/98 Restr.) circulated by the Secretary General on 6 July 1998;
6. Tasks the Secretary General with examining the scope for financing the above-mentioned budgets, to the extent possible, from within existing resources of the 1998 OSCE Unified Budget;

7. In the event that additional billing in relation to the above-mentioned budgets is necessary, a supplementary bill would also reflect the crediting of the 1996 cash surplus in the amount of ATS 29,149,268 in accordance with Financial Regulation 7.07(b);
8. Takes note of the estimated under-expenditure in the 1998 OSCE Unified Budget of ATS 13.5 million during the first half of 1998 and looks forward to its confirmation and the possible identification by the Secretary General of further reserves resulting from underspending in the remainder of 1998, and to the submission of a proposal for transfers between budget lines in accordance with the Financial Regulation 3.02;
9. Taking into account the report of the External Auditors, expresses its gratitude for the work of the Finnish Auditors and accepts the audited Financial Statements for 1997.