

Chairmanship: North Macedonia

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1440th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2023 (in the Ratsaal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 3 p.m.

Closed: 3.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. A. Marku

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE REVISED PROVISIONAL
EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR 2023

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1461 (PC.DEC/1461/Corr.1) on the revised provisional expenditure authorization for 2023, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Spain (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America, Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 21 September 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference

1440th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1440, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1461
REVISED PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION
FOR 2023**

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,

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

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,

Taking note of the ODIHR 2023 Revision of Provisional Expenditure Authorization Request, as contained in PC.ACMF/38/23/Rev.1,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2023 Unified Budget are still ongoing and without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the 1992 Helsinki Summit Document, as well as Permanent Council Decisions No. 241 (1998), No. 428 (2001) and No. 476 (2002), setting the mandate and modalities for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Underlying that this decision does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings,

Approves the revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization for 2023 as set forth in the annex, without setting a precedent.

1 Contains a correction to Attachment 1.

REVISED PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR 2023

Main Programme Programme	Provisional Expenditure Authorization Fin.Reg 3.04 (Approved Budget, PC.DEC/1413)	Budget Transfers Fin. Reg. 3.02(b)	Current Budget	Proposed transfer Fin. Reg. 3.02 (a)(iv)	Proposed Total Revised Expenditure Authorization
Direction and Policy	1,294,600		1,294,600		1,294,600
Fund Administration					
Unit	2,970,700		2,970,700		2,970,700
Human Dimension					
Meetings	603,000		603,000	(239,950)	363,050
Democratization	1,580,300		1,580,300		1,580,300
Human Rights	1,232,200	(65,000)	1,167,200		1,167,200
Elections	6,505,200	221,800	6,727,000	239,950	6,966,950
Tolerance and					
Non-Discrimination	1,418,200	(116,800)	1,301,400		1,301,400
Roma and Sinti Issues	<u>555,700</u>	(40,000)	<u>515,700</u>		<u>515,700</u>
TOTAL FUND					
BUDGET	16,159,900		16,159,900	-	16,159,900
Augmentations	<u>234,100</u>		<u>234,100</u>	-	<u>234,100</u>
TOTAL FUND					
RESOURCES	16,394,000		16,394,000	-	16,394,000

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

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the revision of provisional expenditure authorization for 2023, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. I am making this statement on behalf of the European Union Member States.

The European Union Member States endorse the draft decision on the revision of provisional expenditure authorization for 2023.

The EU Member States reiterate their full support to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)’s election observation work. As we have stated on numerous occasions, it is essential that the ODIHR is sufficiently resourced and staffed to fulfil its mandate. This includes undertaking all election observation requests from the OSCE participating States, be it expected or unexpected.

It is evident that an additional allocation is required in order to observe the upcoming local elections in the Republic of Moldova in line with the recommendations of the needs assessment mission as stated in the report of 18 July 2023.

Therefore, without setting a precedent, the EU Member States support the proposal to transfer part of the identified savings from the human dimension meetings programme in the amount of 239,950 euros. The EU Member States underline that this decision shall have no impact on the Unified Budget 2024, as regards the resource allocation to the mandated Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM).

The EU Member States regret that it is not possible to utilize the human dimension meetings programme for its intended purpose due to one participating State again blocking consensus on the HDIM. The EU fully supported the draft decisions on the HDIM as presented by the Chairperson-in-Office and stood ready to join consensus. The HDIM remains a crucial and unique platform for engaging with civil society, for listening to

1 Contains corrections to the list of aligned participating States.

independent voices and for holding our governments accountable for the implementation of our OSCE commitments. This decision does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings.

The EU Member States reiterate their full support for the mandate and autonomy of the ODIHR. The ODIHR's activities across its entire mandate are essential to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area. We emphasize that the HDIM is a mandated event that could not be implemented for the second year in a row due to the refusal of one participating State. We reiterate that the EU Member States agree to the transfer of the funds on an exceptional basis only, without setting a precedent for the future.

Mr. Chairperson, I should like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day.

I thank you.”

PC.DEC/1461/Corr.1
12 September 2023
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the revised provisional expenditure authorization for 2023, the Russian Federation notes the following.

Today, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) received permission to redirect uncommitted funds from its programmes and use them for the purpose of observing local elections in the Republic of Moldova. We trust that, in its work, the ODIHR will continue relying exclusively on resources that are already at its disposal.

In the present circumstances, the Office’s overall level of expenditure should be kept within the limits of zero nominal growth. The funding of that structure using other sources that are based on assessed contributions from the OSCE participating States is unacceptable.

With regard to the preparations for the election monitoring to be conducted in the Republic of Moldova, we officially declare the Russian Federation’s intention to second representatives to the ODIHR mission. In that respect, we expect the Moldovan authorities to ensure, in accordance with their international obligations, unhindered access to their country’s territory for all OSCE observers regardless of their nationality.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of today’s special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.”

**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 the draft decision on the revised provisional expenditure authorization for 2023, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada supports the draft decision as proposed by the Chairmanship. We place great importance on the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), including ODIHR’s election observation missions which play an important role in promoting, safeguarding, and building trust in democratic systems in the OSCE area.

This draft decision is far from ideal. However, in the spirit of compromise and acting in the overall interest of the Organization, we are prepared to join consensus on this issue.

Canada would have strongly preferred a different outcome: namely, for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) to go ahead this year and be funded from the Unified Budget, and for ODIHR’s election observation mission to be funded from the cash surplus, as per previous practice.

We emphasize that this outcome was not possible due to the politically motivated actions of only one participating State: The Russian Federation.

This draft decision cannot be seen as creating a precedent with regards to future financing of Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. Canada continues to maintain that participating States have a responsibility to come to consensus on HDIM modalities.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the difficult situation that Russia’s hostility towards ODIHR creates for its staff. We thank them for their professionalism and skill in managing this extremely difficult situation.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision.

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 the United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the provisional expenditure authorization, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

As stated on numerous occasions, the United Kingdom would like to reiterate the importance of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights being adequately funded and able to fulfil its mandate and responsibilities, including for the important work of election observation missions.

The United Kingdom is pleased to join consensus on the proposal and decision, on the basis of the language included in the decision underlining that this “does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings”.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of today’s special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”