

2nd day of the Twelfth Meeting
MC(12) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 16/04
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON
STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OSCE

The Ministerial Council,

Determined to enhance the OSCE's capacity to address the challenges of the twenty-first century as one of the pillars of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture,

Recognizing that the thirtieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the fifteenth anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the tenth anniversary of the OSCE provide with a unique opportunity to reflect on the role of the Organization in a transforming Europe,

Realizing that there is a need to improve the Organization's functioning as well as its capabilities for collective action, without diminishing its strengths and flexibility,

Mindful of the need to proceed further with this work in 2005 by taking broad and forward-looking approach to strengthening the overall capacity of the OSCE:

I.

1. Decides to establish a Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, in order to give new impetus to political dialogue and provide strategic vision for the Organization in the twenty-first century;
2. Further decides that the Panel will review the effectiveness of the Organization, its bodies and structures and provide an assessment in view of the challenges ahead. The Panel will make recommendations on measures in order to meet these challenges effectively;
3. Tasks the Chairman-in-Office to appoint the members of the Panel after consultations with all participating States. The composition of the Panel, which shall have up to seven eminent persons with knowledge of the OSCE, will take into account the diversity of the OSCE community, including from participating States hosting field presences. Members of the Panel will have their costs covered by extrabudgetary contributions. Secretariat support shall be provided by the OSCE Secretariat through existing resources. The Chairman-in-Office shall act as Focal Point for the Panel during its work. The Panel shall

present its report with recommendations no later than the end of June 2005 to the participating States through the Chairman-in-Office. Specially convened High Level OSCE Consultations will be held as a follow-up. The Permanent Council shall take a decision on the organizational modalities and the timetable of such a specially convened High Level OSCE Consultation by the end of July 2005;

4. The Consultations will examine the report of the Panel as well as other possible contributions, and will forward their conclusions and recommendations through the Permanent Council to the Ministerial Council meeting in 2005 for appropriate action.

II.

The Ministerial Council further tasks the Permanent Council, through the Working Group on Reform and the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Improving the Functioning and Effectiveness of OSCE Field Operations, to continue consideration of issues pertaining to improving the functioning of the Organization. The Chairpersons of the Groups will be available for consultations with the Panel of Eminent Persons when necessary.