



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

MC.DEC/1/18/Corr.1¹
5 December 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/18
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2020**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Albania will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2020.

1 Includes corrections to the translation of attachment 2.

**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 Serbia:

“The delegation of Serbia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2020.

The Republic of Serbia has joined the consensus on this decision with a belief that entrusting the chairing of our Organization to the Republic of Albania will represent an opportunity for the promotion of the Western Balkans region, contributing to fostering of regional co-operation, including the aspirations of all our countries for accession to the European Union.

However, bearing in mind the differing views of OSCE participating States on the issue of Kosovo, as well as Albania’s strong support and leading role in promoting the unilaterally declared independence of the Republic of Serbia’s Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija (as revealed, *inter alia*, in Albania’s interpretative statement attached to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/12 and in the Permanent Council statement distributed under reference number PC.DEL/1195/18), we expect that Albania will, as every Chairmanship, set aside its national agenda during 2020 and perform its duties in a responsible, transparent and unbiased way, in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), OSCE norms, principles and commitments, deriving in particular from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and with full adherence to the OSCE’s status neutrality on the issue of Kosovo.

In that context, we have joined the consensus with the understanding that all decisions of Albania during its Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE, with regard to the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, and OMiK will be taken in a transparent manner, in full co-operation, consultation and agreement with all Troika members.

We welcome the commitment of Albania to perform its Chairmanship duties in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure, and with full adherence to Decision No. 8 on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Porto, 2002, in particular its paragraph 2 defining that the Chairmanship-in-Office shall ensure ‘that its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account’,

as expressed in the letter of the Foreign Minister of Albania addressed to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia dated 28 November 2018.

We expect the Albanian Chairmanship to respect and preserve the principle of consensus in the OSCE, and to refrain from any action that is not consistent with the status neutrality of our Organization, based on the UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which remains the only framework for the engagement of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

We would like to use this opportunity to once again congratulate our neighbour, the Republic of Albania, for assuming this important duty, and wish to offer our full support. Serbia stands ready to share its experience from its 2015 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

**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:

“In joining the consensus regarding the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on Albania’s Chairmanship of the OSCE in the year 2020, we expect Albania to closely adhere to the provisions of the 2002 Porto OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, ensuring that its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account in these actions.

We also expect that public statements issued by the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office will be in line with OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 and comply with the fundamental OSCE consensus rule.

This applies fully to the OSCE’s activities regarding Kosovo on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted OSCE Ministerial Council decision and included in the journal of the day.”

1 Includes corrections to the translation.