

First Meeting of the Council

Summary of Conclusions

Statement on the Situation in Yugoslavia

Berlin Meeting of the CSCE Council
19-20 June 1991

Summary of Conclusions

I.

1. The Council of the CSCE held its first Meeting in Berlin on 19 and 20 June 1991.
2. The Ministers welcomed the Republic of Albania as a participating State of the CSCE following receipt of a letter accepting all CSCE commitments and responsibilities from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Kapllani, to the Chairman-in-Office of the Council, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Genscher (Annex 1).

II.

3. The Ministers had political consultations on the European architecture and the strengthening of security in Europe as well as the consolidation of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, on prospects for economic transition and social change in Europe, on current issues and on the future work of the CSCE.

In the framework of these consultations the Ministers came to the following conclusions:

4. They reaffirmed the importance of continued political and economic transformation in the democratic countries in transition towards a market economy. They stressed the necessity to continue support to these countries in their efforts to consolidate democracy and transform their economies.
5. They reaffirmed that co-operation in the fields of economy, science, technology and the environment remains an important pillar of the CSCE.
6. They adopted a mechanism for consultation and co-operation with regard to emergency situations (Annex.2).
7. They decided that the communication network, to be established under the provisions of the Vienna CSBM Document 1990, will be preferably used for all communications foreseen in the procedures in emergency situations. In this connection the CSCE Secretariat will be integrated into this communication network.
8. They endorsed the report of the Valletta Meeting on Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and agreed to designate the Conflict Prevention Centre as the nominating institution for the CSCE Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the provisions of the recommendations thereto of the Committee of Senior Officials (Annex 3).
9. They welcomed the establishment of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly (Annex 4).
10. They noted with satisfaction the results of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE participating States.

11. They invited the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to contribute to the Geneva Meeting of Experts on National Minorities.
12. They decided to invite the Council of Europe to make a contribution at the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension.
13. They encouraged the exchange of information and relevant documents among CSCE and the main European and transatlantic institutions, such as the European Community, Council of Europe, ECE, NATO and WEU. The procedure concerning the CSCE's participation in this exchange should be considered at the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and reviewed after six months.
14. They requested the Committee of Senior Officials to prepare recommendations for the next Meeting of the Council on the further development of the CSCE institutions and structures, taking into account the debate at this First Council Meeting. The Consultative Committee of the Conflict Prevention Centre would contribute those sections of the recommendations which concern the enhancement of the role of the Conflict Prevention Centre.
15. They looked forward to a range of informal discussions and consultations on new negotiations on disarmament and confidence and security building open to all CSCE participating States. In this context they requested their representatives in Vienna, as a rule their representatives to the Consultative Committee of the Conflict Prevention Centre, to start informal preparatory consultations in September this year aimed at establishing by 1992, from the conclusion of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, new negotiations on disarmament and confidence and security building open to all participating States as set out in the Charter of Paris. They decided that formal preparatory negotiations for the new forum will be carried out at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.
16. They welcomed the fact that a further seminar on military doctrine would be held within the context of the Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna, from 8 to 18 October 1991, and also welcomed the possibility of future seminars as may be agreed by the participating States.
17. In the light of the recent experience in the Gulf region, the Ministers see a need to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction and for restraint and transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons and weapons technologies, particularly to regions of tension. This should be a priority of CSCE governments, and Ministers agreed to maintain a dialogue on these issues among CSCE countries.
18. They recalled the links of solidarity and of co-operation that unite their countries with the developing countries as well as the importance they attach, in this context, to respect for human rights and to the promotion of the fundamental values of the CSCE. They underlined the usefulness of an increasing co-operation among their countries on these questions in the appropriate fora.
19. They stressed that the CSCE must remain open to dialogue and co-operation with the rest of the world and noted the interest of other countries in the CSCE. In this regard, they requested the CSO to explore this idea and to report to a future meeting of the Council.
20. They agreed that the next Meeting of the Council will be held in Prague on 30 and 31 January 1992.

Tirana, 18 June 1991

Mr. Minister,

The Government of the Republic of Albania hereby adopts the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and all other documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Government of the Republic of Albania accepts in their entirety all commitments and responsibilities contained in those documents, and declares its determination to act in accordance with their provisions.

The Government of the Republic of Albania welcomes a visit of a Rapporteur Mission to be arranged by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Government of Albania will do everything possible to facilitate and assist this mission. The Government of Albania is confident that this mission will inform the participating States of progress in Albania towards full implementation of CSCE commitments as well as assist Albania towards that objective. The Government of Albania understands that this mission will draw upon the expertise of persons from participating States, CSCE institutions and other relevant organizations.

The Government of Albania expresses its readiness for signature of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris by the Head of State or Government of the Republic of Albania at the earliest opportunity.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Minister, to circulate copies of this letter to all representatives of the participating States at the CSCE Council of Ministers.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Muhamet Kapllani

H.E. Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER
Chairman-in-Office of the
CSCE Council of Ministers
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs
BONN

MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The participating States will in accordance with the following provisions, consult and co-operate with each other concerning a serious emergency situation which may arise from a violation of one of the Principles of the Final Act or as the result of major disruptions endangering peace, security or stability. In applying the mechanism for consultation and co-operation with regard to emergency situations all the Principles of the Final Act, including the Principle of non-intervention in internal affairs, and those of the Charter of Paris, are of primary significance and accordingly will be equally and unreservedly applied each of them being interpreted taking into account the others.

1. If any participating State concludes that an emergency situation, as described above, is developing, it may seek clarification from the State of States involved. The request will state the cause, or causes, of the concern.
 - 1.1 The requested State or States will provide within 48 hours all relevant information in order to clarify the situation giving rise to the request.
 - 1.2 The request and the reply will be transmitted to all other participating States without delay.
- 2 Should the situation remain unresolved, any of the States involved in the procedure described under point 1 above may address to the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials a request that an emergency meeting of the Committee be held.
 - 2.1 Any request addressed by the same State on an identical subject between two regular meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials will be inadmissible.
 - 2.2 Any request should state the reasons why the matter is urgent and why the emergency mechanism is the most appropriate.
 - 2.3 Any request should be accompanied by the texts of the request for clarification and of the reply provided for under point 1 above.
 - 2.4 On receipt of the request, the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials will immediately inform all participating States and the CSCE Secretariat and submit the relevant documentation.
 - 2.5 The Chairman will also enter into contact with the States involved within a period of 24 hours following receipt of the request.
 - 2.6 As soon as 12 or more participating States have seconded the request within a maximum period of 48 hours by addressing their support to the Chairman, he will immediately notify all participating States of the date and time of the meeting, which will be held at the earliest 48 hours and at the latest three days after this notification. The notification will also include the reason for, and the agenda of, the meeting.

2.7 Subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.6 above, no judgement as to the facts nor any possible dispute as to the validity of the reasons offered for requesting the emergency convening of a meeting may be invoked for postponing or preventing the holding of an emergency meeting.

2.8 The meeting will be held at the seat of the Secretariat and last no more than two days, unless otherwise agreed.

2.9 The agenda of the emergency meeting will consist of a single item. Its formulation will be identical to that contained in the notification provided for in paragraph 2.6 above. It will not be open to amendment. The Chairman of the meeting will ensure that discussions do not depart from the subject on the agenda.

2.10 The meeting will be chaired by the representative of the State holding the chairmanship of the Committee of Senior Officials.

2.11 If the Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials is a national of one of the States involved, as defined under point 1 above, the meeting will be chaired by the representative of the next State, in French alphabetical order, which is not involved in the situation.

2.12 The proceedings will be introduced by a short statement by the Chairman recalling the facts and stages of development of the situation. He will then indicate the number of speakers who have asked for the floor and will open the debate.

2.13 In the light of its assessment of the situation, the meeting may agree on recommendations or conclusions to arrive at a solution. It may also decide to convene a meeting at ministerial level.

2.14 The procedures for convening meetings under this mechanism do not affect the rule of consensus in other circumstances.

3. The procedures defined above will not be used in place of the mechanism concerning unusual military activities.

4. The communications between participating States provided for above will be transmitted preferably through the CSBM communications network.

The above procedures will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Taking into account the Report of the Valletta 1991 Meeting on Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, containing the Principles for Dispute Settlement and the Provisions for a CSCE Procedure for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, the Council establishes the following arrangements in accordance with the Charter of Paris.

The Council

1. designates the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) to act as the nominating institution in accordance with Section V of the said Provisions, and requests the Director of the Secretariat of the CPC to assume his functions accordingly under the overall responsibility of the Council;
2. invites each participating State desiring to do so to communicate as soon as possible and preferably by 30 August 1991 the names of up to four persons to be entered into the register of qualified candidates to be maintained by the nominating institution in accordance with section V of said Provisions;
3. decides that the mechanism will come into force as soon as forty nominations have been received by the Director;
4. instructs the Director of the Secretariat of the CPC to notify the full list of nominations as soon as the fortieth nomination is received and subsequently to notify any additions or revisions which may be made;
5. recalls the experience of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and its Secretary-General which should be drawn upon, if so agreed, when the CSCE Procedure for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes is implemented;
6. notes that appropriate use can be made of the premises and facilities of the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The Council welcomes the successful outcome of the meeting in Madrid on 2 and 3 April 1991 of parliamentarians from CSCE participating States.

They note with satisfaction the consensus reached to adopt the "Final Resolution concerning the establishment of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly". The Council considers that this Resolution represents an important step forward for the development of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe regarding greater parliamentary involvement in the CSCE.

Reaffirming their commitment to strengthening democracy as the only system of government of their countries, the Ministers look forward to the collective expression of the views of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly on security and co-operation in Europe and on the future development of the CSCE.

Statement on the situation in Yugoslavia

- Ministers discussed the situation in Yugoslavia.
- They were informed by H.E. the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Budimir Lončar, about the latest developments in Yugoslavia.
- The Ministers expressed their friendly concern and their support for democratic development, unit and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, based on economic reforms, full application of human rights in all parts of Yugoslavia, including the rights of minorities, and the peaceful solution of the current crisis in the country. They called for continued progress in these fields.
- Ministers stressed that it is only for the peoples of Yugoslavia themselves to decide on the country's future. Ministers therefore called for a continued dialogue among all parties concerned and confirmed their view that the possibilities for such a dialogue were not yet exhausted.
- They expressed their belief that the existing constitutional disputes should be remedied, and that the way out of the present difficult impasse should be found without recourse to the use of force and in conformity with legal and constitutional procedures. They urged all parties concerned to redouble their efforts to resolve their differences peacefully through negotiations.
- Ministers expressed their confidence that on this basis the international community would stand ready to assist Yugoslavia's efforts to transform itself economically and politically.