

Purpose and Role of the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project

The OSCE 2015 Troika: Switzerland, Serbia, Germany

Mandate of the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project

Purpose and Role of the Panel

- The consensus on European security as a common project, as reflected in the Charter of Paris on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act, has gradually eroded over the past years. The implementation of commitments has been uneven and the resulting decrease of trust has weakened several cornerstones of cooperative security. This crisis of European security has been aggravated by the crisis in and around Ukraine. In addition to continuing efforts to restore peace to Ukraine, it is time to start addressing the broader crisis of European security too.
- The Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project – hereafter called ‘the Panel’ – is designed to provide advice on how to (re-)consolidate European security as a common project.
- In particular, the Panel will
 - Prepare the basis for an inclusive and constructive security dialogue across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions, taking into consideration the recent crisis in and around Ukraine in its broader perspective as well as other situations in the OSCE area where participating States consider their security to be threatened;
 - Reflect on how to re-build trust to enhance peace and security in Europe on the grounds of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris and on how to ensure effective adherence to the Helsinki Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States;
 - Examine perceived threats in the OSCE area and explore common responses;
 - Explore possibilities to reconfirm, refine, reinvigorate and complement elements of cooperative security;
 - Analyze the particular role of the OSCE in this context, as well as its role in preventing and resolving crises in the OSCE area, including in Ukraine.
- Launched in the context of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel in December 2014 after consultations with OSCE participating States, the Panel is commissioned by the former Swiss

Chairmanship, in close cooperation with the Serbian Chairmanship 2015 and the German Chairmanship 2016.

Membership

- The Panel is composed of 15 eminent personalities from all OSCE regions, headed by a Chairperson primus inter pares.
- The Panel will gather personalities with long-standing practical expertise in European security in all its dimensions and include policymakers as well as representatives of think tanks.
- Members of the Panel serve in their individual capacity.

Outputs

- The Panel shall produce two reports:
 - An Interim Report, in particular on lessons learned for the OSCE from its engagement in Ukraine.
 - A Final Report on the broader issues of security in Europe and the OSCE area at large, as outlined above.
- Both reports should contain recommendations on action points for policy makers, including for the OSCE Ministerial Council and participating States.

Working Methods

- General guidance will be provided by the OSCE Troika 2015.
- The Panel will seek input from participating States, the OSCE Institutions, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, multilateral actors concerned with European security issues, civil society, think tanks, and other relevant actors through hearings, commissioning of papers, and other forms of activities.
- The Panel and individual members will be provided opportunities to engage with high-level representatives of participating States (for example in the form of side events at multilateral conferences and other international events).
- The Panel will be assisted by a support unit which will provide operational and logistical support in convening meetings as well as substantive support in drafting the reports. The

OSCE Secretariat will provide additional operational and logistical support, as needed. The OSCE network of think tanks and academic institutions should be engaged as a contributor for research- and input-papers.

- The Panel will address in parallel the different issues outlined above, irrespective of the more specific focus of the Interim Report.

Timeframe

- Presentation of the Panel and constitutive meeting (January/February 2015)
- Interim Report (June 2015)
- Final Report (November/ December 2015): presentation at the Ministerial Council in Belgrade
- Follow-up (2016)
 - Further outreach events at multilateral conferences;
 - Presentation of the report at, *inter alia*, WEF, Munich Security Conference, in the margins of UNGA;
 - Discussion of the report in the appropriate OSCE fora.

Financing

- The Panel will be financed through voluntary contributions.

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