OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1537
12 November 2026

Original: ENGLISH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1537
2026 REVISED BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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,

Recalling Decision No. 1526 of 19 March 2026 on the approval of the 2026 Unified Budget,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv) concerning transfers between programmes,

Taking note of the additional requirements identified under PC.ACMF/48/26/Rev.1 of 11 November 2026,

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,

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

Approves, on an exceptional basis, the budget revision of 443,200 euros in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv), as set forth in the annex.

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Annex

2026 REVISED BUDGET

Programme	Approved Budget	Transfers as per Fin. Reg. 3.02 (a)(iv)	Revised Budget
Human Dimension Meetings	595,700	(443,200)	152,500
Elections	6,012,100	443,200	6,455,300
Other ODIHR programmes	8,458,300	–	8,458,300
TOTAL ODIHR	15,066,100	–	15,066,100

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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 Ireland (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden):

"In connection with the adoption of the decision on the 2026 Revised Budget for the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, 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 European Union Member States.

The European Union Member States endorse the draft decision. We thank the Swiss Chairmanship for their hard work gathering consensus on this decision.

We reiterate our support for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)'s established election observation methodology. We underline the ODIHR's election observation missions provide a comprehensive, objective, and fact-based assessment of the entire electoral cycle.

We therefore support the budget revision of 443,200 euros in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv) to provide the funds enabling the observation of early presidential elections in the Republic of Serbia, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent. We welcome that the Republic of Serbia has extended a timely invitation to the ODIHR in line with our collective commitments, even ahead of announcing the official date of the election.

The EU Member States regret that it was not possible to utilise the Human Dimension Meeting's Programme for its intended purpose due to one participating State again blocking consensus on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting remains a crucial and unique platform for engaging with civil society, for listening to independent voices and for holding our governments accountable for the implementation of our OSCE commitments. This decision does not establish a 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. It therefore remains deeply

regrettable that the ODIHR, including the Elections Department, continues to be underfunded through the Unified Budget. We believe that the ODIHR must be sufficiently staffed and resourced to carry out its vital work.

Finally, I would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day."