

connection with expert and rapporteur missions as per the Moscow Document. The Prague Council also adopted a procedure called "consensus minus one," which enabled the CSCE to act without unanimous consent, if necessary, in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of CSCE commitments related to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The formula adopted by Ministers emphasized peaceful means in dealing with a violator and called for actions consisting of political declarations or unspecified "other political steps to apply outside the territory of the state concerned."

Canada's hopes for Basket II institutionalization were realized with the decision that the CSO would periodically convene as the "Economic Forum" in Prague.

Ministers adopted a declaration on non-proliferation and arms transfers, in a German follow-on to a Canadian initiative. As well, ten new states joined the CSCE: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirgistan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Croatia and Slovenia were granted observer status. While some states worried that inclusion of the Central Asian republics would dilute the CSCE's effectiveness and undermine its rules of good behaviour, Canada strongly advocated such expansion. The ex-USSR was likely for some time to be a zone of instability and the CSCE was the best instrument for exerting some kind of moderating influence.

While Canada was pleased with the Prague Council's improvement of the CSCE's security management ability, it believed that the CSCE still needed the capability to identify situations that could degenerate into conflict, so it could take action before, not after, violence erupted. At the Helsinki FUM, Canada intended to focus on consolidating and strengthening the menu of tools for conflict prevention.