



Chairmanship: Slovakia

1212th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 17 January 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč
Ambassador K. Žáková

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Armenia to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Armen Papikyan.

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY,
H.E. GEORGE TSERETELI

Chairperson, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/1/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/33/19), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/47/19 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/48/19 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/49/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/24/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/22/19 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/29/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/43/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/19/19/Corr.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/32/19 OSCE+), Norway, Georgia (PC.DEL/42/19 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/52/19 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/53/19 OSCE+), Moldova, Italy, Holy See (PC.DEL/20/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and the illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/46/19), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/35/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/27/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/51/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/34/19 OSCE+), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/21/19), Austria (Annex), Ukraine
- (c) *Freedom of expression in the Russian Federation:* Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/37/19), Switzerland, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/25/19 OSCE+), France, Netherlands, United Kingdom
- (d) *New wave of human rights violations against LGBTI persons in Chechnya, Russian Federation:* Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Australia, Georgia, Ukraine and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/38/19), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/28/19), Ukraine (PC.DEL/44/19), Russian Federation
- (e) *Continued detention of Mr. O. Titiev, head of the "Memorial" Human Rights Centre, in the Russian Federation:* Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/39/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/26/19 OSCE+)
- (f) *Case of journalist Ms. P. Ünker in Turkey:* Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of

the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia and Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/40/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/36/19 OSCE+), Turkey

- (g) *Situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/23/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/50/19), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (PC.DEL/30/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union (PC.DEL/41/19), Turkey

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visits by the Chairperson-in-Office to Ukraine and Moldova in January 2019*: Chairperson
- (b) *Appointment of H.E. Mr. Lukáš Parížek, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, as Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on the Scales of Contributions for the year ending 31 December 2019 (CIO.GAL/6/19 OSCE+)*: Chairperson
- (c) *Chairmanship conference on combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE area, to be held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 February 2019 (CIO.GAL/7/19 OSCE+)*: Chairperson
- (d) *Modalities related to the 1213th meeting of the Permanent Council, to be held on 24 January 2019*: Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the meeting of the Advisory Group of the “Tech Against Trafficking” initiative, held on 16 January 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Basel Peace Forum “Rethinking Peace – Innovating the Future”, held in Basel, Switzerland, on 13 and 14 January 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the annual meeting of the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat with the heads of field operations and institutions, held on 10 and 11 January 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *Appointment of the new Head of the OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague, Ambassador I. Krasnická*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (e) *Extension of the vacancy notice for the post of Director of Internal Oversight*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)

- (f) *Participation of the Secretary General in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, to be held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, from 22 to 25 January 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/19 OSCE+)*
(SEC.GAL/8/19/Add.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Presidential election in Ukraine, to be held on 31 March 2019: Ukraine*
(PC.DEL/45/19), Russian Federation
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Andorra, to be held on 7 April 2019: Andorra*
- (c) *Presidential election in Slovakia, to be held on 16 and 30 March 2019:*
Slovakia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 24 January 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

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Annex

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor. In reply to the statement just made by the Russian Federation, I should like to make the following comments.

Austria is committed worldwide to the upholding of freedom of the press and the protection of journalists. The protection of freedom of opinion and of the media is a fundamental value in democratic States and was therefore also one of the priorities of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship in 2017. This commitment applies to restrictions on press and media freedom worldwide and, of course, also in the OSCE participating States.

As far as the case of an Austrian journalist and correspondent in Ukraine of the public broadcasting company Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF) is concerned, I should like to state that this is currently the subject of bilateral talks with Ukraine. Austria strongly hopes that a solution can be quickly found in this way.

Madam Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.