



Chairmanship: Albania

1284th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 8 October 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Permanent Council of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings of the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Agenda item 1: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR HEIDI GRAU

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/35/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1333/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1293/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1325/20 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1306/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1294/20),

Canada (PC.DEL/1362/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Norway (PC.DEL/1319/20), Georgia (PC.DEL/1322/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1295/20 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1312/20)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE
2020 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1380 (PC.DEC/1380) on the date and venue of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2020 OSCE
MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1381 (PC.DEC/1381) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Regarding the illegal checkpoints in the Security Zone, serious constraints on the free movement and human rights in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak:* Moldova (Annex 1), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Canada, Georgia and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1339/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1296/20), Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Georgia (PC.DEL/1323/20 OSCE+), Turkey
- (b) *Situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh:* United States of America (also on behalf of France and the Russian Federation), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1329/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada) (PC.DEL/1324/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1300/20), Norway (PC.DEL/1318/20), France (PC.DEL/1330/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1297/20), Armenia (PC.DEL/1314/20), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1308/20 OSCE+), Turkey

- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters: Armenia (Annex 2)*
- (d) *Aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Turkey (PC.DEL/1327/20 OSCE+)*
- (e) *European and World Day against the Death Penalty, observed on 10 October 2020: Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; ; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1335/20), Holy See (PC.DEL/1304/20 OSCE+), Norway (also on behalf of Andorra, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/1320/20), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1311/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1298/20), Belarus (PC.DEL/1305/20 OSCE+), Kazakhstan*
- (f) *Attacks on freedom of opinion and expression and on media freedom in Belarus: Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1336/20), Norway (PC.DEL/1316/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1299/20), United Kingdom, Belarus (PC.DEL/1307/20 OSCE+)*
- (g) *The case of Mr. Y. Dmitriev: Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1338/20), Norway (PC.DEL/1317/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1303/20), United Kingdom, Russian Federation*

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Meeting between the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Ms. E. Dzharparova, held in Vienna on 5 October 2020: Chairperson*
- (b) *Chairmanship conference on “Addressing organized crime through strategic partnerships”, held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 5 October 2020: Chairperson*
- (c) *2020 OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, entitled “Strengthening Effective Prevention of Drug Use among Youth through Community Policing” and held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 6 October 2020: Chairperson*

- (d) *Meeting between the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE, Ambassador B. Dzhusupov, held on 7 October 2020: Chairperson, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1302/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1310/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Canada*
- (e) *Informal candidate hearings for the posts of Secretary General, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Representative on Freedom of the Media, and Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Chairperson*

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

- (a) *Follow-up visit to Turkey by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 6 to 8 October 2020: Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/126/29 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Security Days event entitled “Revitalizing Trust and Co-operation in Europe: Lessons of the Paris Charter”, to be held in Prague and via videoconference on 16 October 2020: Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/126/29 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Circulation of documents by the Conflict Prevention Centre’s Situation/Communications Room outside regular working hours: Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/126/29 OSCE+), Armenia, Azerbaijan*
- (d) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the Secretariat (SEC.GAL/126/29 OSCE+): Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parliamentary elections in Liechtenstein, to be held on 7 February 2021: Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1301/20 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 22 October 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



1284th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1284, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to draw your attention to a very important and sensitive issue that affects the process of the Transnistrian conflict settlement and requires a particular consideration by all participating States.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Moldovan authorities have made every effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 by providing support to all citizens and protecting their health and life.

Despite all appeals that Chişinău has made to Tiraspol to join the efforts to address efficiently COVID-19 and mitigate its impact on the society as well as to ensure that all people, including from the left bank, are well protected and equipped to cope with COVID-19, Tiraspol's response was totally unconstructive.

Furthermore, in contradiction with existing mechanisms and agreements, the *de facto* authorities from the Transnistrian region installed arbitrary and illegally barriers and control posts in the Security Zone, which also represents a serious violation of the human rights.

We express our deep concern regarding the maintenance by Tiraspol of the infrastructure of the illegal control posts, in violation of the regime in the Security Zone and without coordination with the Joint Control Commission, as provided by the "Agreement of 21 July 1992, on the Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova".

These posts are by no means sanitary as Tiraspol claims and have nothing in common with the management of the pandemic situation. Moreover, the regime in Tiraspol has recently extended the mimicked quarantine until 1 December 2020. Thus, under the pretext of the quarantine regime, they installed an abusive control and restrictions of the flow of people, transport and goods imitating a so-called administrative border and isolating for almost seven months dozens of thousands of citizens on both banks of the Nistru river. Consequently, the citizens are put unduly in a particularly unfavourable situation of not having access to their work places, their homes, close relatives and families, reimbursed medicines etc.

Mr. Chairperson,

Undoubtedly, by violating the assumed commitments under the Berlin Plus package, on ensuring the free movement in the region of farmers from Dubasari district without presenting the preliminary lists, of Moldovan officials without written notifications, of students and teachers on the basis of service and student cards, of individuals without any conditioning, Tiraspol took a provocative stance.

Although Chişinău made numerous appeals to Tiraspol to evacuate immediately and unconditionally the infrastructure of illegitimate posts and break down all artificial barriers to free movement, no positive developments could be noticed in this regard. On the contrary, the situation is worsening. I want to inform the Permanent Council that on 6 and 7 October Tiraspol continued to extend unilaterally, without co-ordinating with the Joint Control Commission and Joint Military Command, the infrastructure at eight illegal posts in the Security Zone located in the city of Bender, the city of Dubăsari, in the perimeter of the villages Gîsca, Proteagailovca, Chiţcani, Chircăeşti, Roghi, Molovata Nouă.

In other words, instead of eliminating the checkpoints, Tiraspol has increased their number and endowed them with functions of controlling and recording citizens who cross them. Regardless of how often Chişinău approaches the violations of the regime in the Security Zone on the existing negotiating platforms, Tiraspol avoids discussing the subject of illegal checkpoints.

Such an “activation” in the Security Zone indicates nothing else than Tiraspol's intention to consolidate a so-called “state border”, this being an extremely dangerous action which escalates the threats to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, within its internationally recognized borders.

In this respect, we do believe that a more active involvement on this issue of all mediators (the OSCE Chairmanship, the Russian Federation and Ukraine) and observers (the European Union and the United States of America) in the negotiation process of the Transnistrian settlement is highly needed. We request them to make use of all available levers to persuade Tiraspol to eliminate illegal infrastructure from the Security Zone, to give up the abusive controls on the administrative line and to ensure the free movement of people in the region, according to the agreements previously convened in the negotiation process.

Mr. Chairperson,

The current pandemic is a major challenge for all countries around the world and this situation has serious impact in particular in areas affected by the conflicts. At the same time, the protection of health and life of population must be by no means used in the political interests of the separatist regimes, and even worse, in the abusive limitation of the fundamental rights and freedoms.

We appreciate the efforts of all involved actors to make the Transnistrian settlement process a successful one at this very delicate juncture, but we would also like to highlight two points.

First, regrettably the freedom of expression, the right to property, freedom of movement, access to the medical services, and other rights have been most often violated, accompanied by intimidation, persecution, “expulsions”, illegal detentions or arrests, that became a new reality in the region during the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is unacceptable that any cases of protest against decisions taken by Tiraspol, particularly, against violation of the right to freedom of expression, the secessionist regime imputes as “extremism”. In cases of commuting from one bank to another bank of the Nistru river – Tiraspol incriminates “the illegal crossing of the border”. In cases of vocal opinion – through its local KGB/“MGB” (illegal state security ministry) Tiraspol presents to targeted people the “notification of expulsion” or otherwise they risk arrest. Most of them are in Tiraspol’s jail, without any information about their juridical situation.

Moreover, we want to draw your attention to an extremely alarming new case that happened yesterday when policeman A. Amarfi from Floresti Police Inspectorate, temporarily residing in Camenca district, was abducted by the security structures of the separatist regime in Tiraspol. His family was subjected to an aggressive intimidation by breaking the windows of the house in the night from 6 to 7 October 2020, followed by his arrest and transfer to the KGB/“MGB” office in Tiraspol. About this and other cases we will offer a more detailed information at the next meeting of the Permanent Council.

Second, given the sharp deterioration of the human rights situation in Transnistria, the Moldovan authorities cannot simply follow the economic requirements of Tiraspol – we need a result-oriented approach to ensure respect for fundamental human rights.

In the same vein, we are also obliged to recall that since March 2020, the Moldova officials still do not have access in the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

All these are unequivocally signalling a continuous strategy aimed at political cleansing of the territory controlled by the regime in Tiraspol. It is obvious to us why Tiraspol is not interested in discussing the human rights dimension. Using this opportunity, we call on the mediators and observers in the 5+2 format to make use of the leverages at their disposal to ensure the full protection of human rights in the Transnistrian region and maintain a permanent dynamic of the settlement process on all dimensions, including political and security issues.

Finally, we reiterate the openness and readiness of Chişinău to engage in productive discussions of all these issues in the 5+2 format. We should all work together to bring the Transnistrian region of my country out of self-isolation and help the population on both banks of the Nistru river to cope with this pandemic, but also to overcome differences that hinder progress in the overall settlement process.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. I thank you.



1284th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1284, Agenda item 5(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to begin by expressing Armenia's gratitude to all our international partners who have reiterated in their statements that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict cannot be solved by military means.

As we are speaking, the fierce fighting with terrorists and their accomplices is continuing along the entire line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan. The armed units of State-sponsored terrorists have reduced the once thriving cities of Stepanakert, Shushi, Hadrut and Martuni to rubble. For 12 days now, the residential areas of those cities, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, and critical and communication infrastructure have been heavily bombarded with cluster munitions, banned under international humanitarian law, missiles, "kamikaze drones" and unmanned combat aerial vehicles. The number of confirmed fatal casualties among civilians stands at 21, while more than 80 have been wounded. According to reports, currently around half of the Artsakh population are internally displaced persons, and the authorities of Artsakh are taking the necessary measures to ensure their safety and security.

Emboldened by Turkey's unconditional political support and strong backing and despite repeated international calls for the violence to be halted, Azerbaijan considers that nothing or nobody can prevent it from shelling the peaceful civilian population, day and night.

The robust international reaction to the war crimes committed by Azerbaijan against the people of Artsakh have proved Azerbaijan wrong. To pre-empt most probable allegations from Azerbaijan that Armenia is engaged in a disinformation campaign, I shall cite here Amnesty International, which said that it was "consistent with the use of cluster munitions in the city of Stepanakert". Moreover, Amnesty International's crisis response experts "were able to trace the location of the footage to residential areas of Stepanakert and identified Israeli-made M095 DPICM cluster munitions that appear to have been fired by Azerbaijani forces". Amnesty International further stressed that "[c]luster bombs are inherently indiscriminate weapons, and their deployment in residential areas is absolutely appalling and unacceptable".

Yesterday, a Cultural Centre of Shushi was destroyed reportedly by an Israeli-made LORA long-range quasi-ballistic missile. At the moment of shelling, dozens of women and children were hiding in the basement of the building. Unfortunately, according to preliminary reports, civilians have been killed and wounded. The authorities of Artsakh are currently trying to establish the exact number of casualties. For those not familiar with the technical characteristics and capacities of a LORA missile, I should inform you that it has a circular error probability of 10 metres, which proves that the aforementioned strike was a deliberate act of intimidation, testifying to the criminal nature of the orders given by the politico-military leadership of Azerbaijan. Today, just a few hours ago, the Holy Saviour (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in Shushi was bombed in an air attack. Shortly after the first reports appeared on the destruction of the Cultural Centre of Shushi, a hypocritical interview with an aide of the President of Azerbaijan was broadcast in which he claimed that the Azerbaijani armed forces were targeting only military targets.

Indiscriminate shelling of the civilian population and infrastructure has also been reported by numerous international media. And because of that reporting, journalists themselves have come under attack. Both local and international journalists on the ground have been targeted by the Azerbaijani armed forces, who located a number of them by means of their Internet Protocol addresses and attacked them shortly after their reports had been live-streamed. Targeting everything and everyone that has anything to do with the free media is becoming the Azerbaijani authorities' modus operandi.

I wish today to commend the courage and dedication of journalists and media professionals, who, without sparing a thought for their own safety and lives, continue to work in Stepanakert and other cities of Artsakh, documenting and reporting on the crimes against humanity and war crimes that are being committed daily by the Azerbaijani armed forces with the direct involvement of Turkey and the support of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups.

Mr. Chairperson,

Being unable to seize Artsakh by force, Azerbaijan has gradually increased the duration and intensity of its bombing of civilian targets, including whole cities and villages. The politico-military leadership of Azerbaijan, under Turkish pressure, is desperately pursuing a strategy aimed at destroying entirely or in part the capital city of Stepanakert, the cities of Shushi, Martuni and Hadrut, and other settlements, in order to create unbearable living conditions for those inhabitants who manage to survive the Azerbaijani bombardment.

This scorched-earth policy seeks to wipe out the people of Artsakh and can, therefore, only be described as ethnic cleansing. We can already see that Armenia's warnings about Azerbaijan being an existential threat to the people of Artsakh were not mere words. These inhumane and criminal acts have yet to be assessed properly. I believe that the attempts by the Azerbaijani regime and its affiliate terrorist groups to wipe out the entire population of Artsakh make it even more relevant than before to recognize the independence of Artsakh.

The Government of Armenia has already lodged two applications with the European Court of Human Rights, requesting the Court to apply interim measures against both Azerbaijan and Turkey. The Court decided to apply Rule 39 of the Rules of the Court regarding the interim measures in both cases. This means that the Court, having duly

considered the evidence provided by the Government of Armenia as well as ample video and photo footage and eyewitness accounts by local and international media and humanitarian organizations, found that there was no doubt as to Turkey's involvement. Accordingly, Turkey also will be held responsible for its violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular its Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

The actions of the Azerbaijani administration illustrate the policy of anti-Armenian hatred and discrimination that has been adopted at the state level in Azerbaijan and pursued by its regime over the past 30 years.

In his televised address to the nation on 4 October, President Aliyev used extremely derogatory language while speaking about Armenians, saying among other things: "Now we have shown who is who. We are driving them away like dogs! Azerbaijani soldiers drive them away like dogs!" This is not the kind of language that should be used by the leader of an OSCE participating State. Such language belongs with terrorists and jihadists.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the last Permanent Council meeting, where we have had an opportunity to update you on the situation on the ground, the intensive fighting has continued almost without cessation primarily in the northern and southern segments of the front line. The massive nature of the attacks is evidenced by the amount of heavy military hardware being used by Azerbaijan both on land and in the air.

The military casualties suffered by the Artsakh defence army are reported regularly. Even though the Azerbaijani side does not provide any information about its troop losses, we have been keeping count: the number of their casualties is huge, reaching several thousands. It should also be notable that the majority of the Azerbaijani military personnel who have been killed are representatives of national minorities, such as Lezgins and Talysh.

In this context, I should recall the urgent appeal made in their statement of 2 October by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to enable the repatriation of the remains of fallen soldiers in co-ordination with the OSCE and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Needless to say, this appeal has also gone unheeded by Azerbaijan and its terrorist affiliates, simply because neither the current Azerbaijani regime nor Turkey are accountable before the people of Azerbaijan and even less so before terrorist fighters.

Mr. Chairperson,

From the very first day of the current Azerbaijani aggression, but also long before, the Armenian delegation has been stressing time and again the destructive role played by Turkey. Indeed, with every new day of fighting on the front line we see more and more evidence of Turkey's not only indirect but also direct military involvement in the battlefield.

I am not going to repeat all the facts attesting to Turkey's involvement. We have already mentioned how the Turkish Air Force is providing air support for the ground operations of Azerbaijani troops and how a Turkish F-16 fighter jet shot down Armenia's

SU-25 aircraft that had been patrolling Armenian airspace. In order to forestall the Azerbaijani delegation's response, I emphasize that we are referring not to Azerbaijani F-16 jets but to F-16 jets from the Turkish Air Force and, what is more, to how Turkey is carrying out the air command and control of these aerial attacks and bombardments. We have already mentioned the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups by Turkey and their transfer to Azerbaijan. Since the start of the aggression, the evidence pointing to the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups has been amply reconfirmed. Information about the numbers of terrorists and jihadists killed is being provided by the media as well. According to our sources, the death toll among foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists currently stands at more than 350. Credible reports indicate that the bodies of at least 55 slain fighters have already been transferred back to Syria for burial.

Esteemed colleagues,

Two days ago, Turkey's Foreign Minister visited Baku. This visit occurred shortly after the latest statements by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, issued at the level of respective Foreign Ministers. It took place after almost unanimous calls from the international community to the external parties, namely Turkey, to refrain from interfering either directly or indirectly in the conflict and to refrain from bellicose rhetoric that would further incite tensions and violence. This visit took place after the Secretary General of NATO said that he expected Turkey "to use its considerable influence to calm tensions".

Yet, what have we seen? Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu asserted that he was going to Baku to demonstrate Turkey's solidarity with, and support for, Azerbaijan. According to Azerbaijani media, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that Turkey was ready to provide support in any sphere, whenever Azerbaijan will need it.

The Turkish Foreign Minister also said that Turkish embassies around the world were already engaged in supporting Azerbaijan and that they would continue their joint efforts with renewed vigour in line with the instructions received from Azerbaijan's leader. He repeated earlier remarks to the effect that Turkey would stand by Azerbaijan on the battlefield as well as around the negotiating table.

Following Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu's visit and expression of support, the Azerbaijani authorities, with total disregard for international appeals, relaunched large-scale attacks – now concentrated on the southern direction of the front line – and the intensive shelling of cities and civilian infrastructure.

The defence army of Artsakh, which fully realizes the disastrous consequences that the deployment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists to the South Caucasus will have for peace and security in the region, and in particular for the safety of the people of Artsakh, is today battling against the international terrorism sponsored by Turkey and the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan.

Moreover, intelligence reports suggest that terrorist organizations and groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra, Firqat al-Hamza and the Sultan Murad Division, all of which are on the United Nations list of terrorist organizations, are currently fighting alongside the Azerbaijani army against the Armenians of Artsakh. These organizations have also been recognized as terrorist groups by the OSCE in its relevant decisions. Intelligence reports also suggest that

the geographical scope of recruitment of terrorist fighters may be expanding towards Afghanistan and Pakistan. In particular, there are reports of an agreement to that effect having been reached by Turkey and the leader of Afghanistan's Islamic Party (Hezb-e Islami).

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

In parallel to the military aggression against the Republic of Artsakh, Azerbaijan together with Turkey has engaged in a massive disinformation campaign, seeking to mislead international public opinion and promote the Turkish-Azerbaijani narrative about the aggression and the resulting situation, especially with regard to humanitarian aspects. I am not going to speak about the fake, photoshopped images of so-called cluster munitions allegedly used by Armenia, of a rocket that had been placed into a carefully drilled hole, with the area around the hole not even slightly damaged. I am not going to speak about video footage disseminated by the Azerbaijani propaganda gurus of allegedly an Armenian attack on the city of Mingechaur – footage that was later removed after it was revealed that it was from the Israeli operation in Gaza in 2018. I am not going to speak about the photographs cited as evidence of Armenia's alleged use of Israeli-made cluster munitions against the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline – cited as such without taking into account the fact that Armenia does not even possess any Israeli-made weapons. Even communist propaganda had more finesse and was more subtle than that.

While Azerbaijan is resorting to propaganda tricks, Artsakh invites journalists from around the world to come and see the truth for themselves.

The aforementioned propaganda is geared towards not only an external but also a domestic audience. I find it truly deplorable when billboards in Baku show footage of the destruction of military hardware and of the bodies of people killed in the fighting. These are the true colours of the Aliyev regime, this is the true face of the Azerbaijani and Turkish leadership, and I dare anyone to argue that the people of Artsakh should entrust their safety and security to Azerbaijan and, by extension, to Turkey.

Last but not least, it must be stressed that Azerbaijan's irresponsible and aggressive actions against Artsakh over the past 12 days and Turkey's active involvement on the side of Azerbaijan, including the transfer and deployment of terrorist fighters and jihadist groups to the conflict zone, have rolled back the peace process. It is of paramount importance that Azerbaijan should stop its military aggression immediately and without any preconditions.

Turkey should, also immediately and without any preconditions, withdraw its military personnel and equipment from Azerbaijan, and remove its proxy forces – jihadists and foreign terrorist fighters – from the region.

I should like once again to reiterate Armenia's strong and unwavering commitment to an exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict. We also reaffirm our support for the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and for the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and encourage them to redouble their efforts in implementing their respective mandates.

Thank you.



1284th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1284, Agenda item 5(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and the consequences of direct and indiscriminate attacks by the armed forces of Armenia against the civilian population and civilian objects in Azerbaijan that continue to date.

In the reporting period starting from 27 September, the armed forces of Armenia have continued to target the civilian population, private houses and other civilian infrastructure in residential areas along the front line in a gross violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

According to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, starting in the afternoon on 2 October 2020, the Sabirkend village of the Shamkir district and the Aghdam village of Tovuz region of Azerbaijan were subjected to rocket and artillery fire, respectively, from the territory of Armenia. From their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the Armenian armed forces were firing also at the settlements of Amirli in the Barda district and Guzanli in the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan. Only during 2 October over 2,000 shells fell in Tartar district. The Armenian armed forces have also fired on the energy infrastructure in Goranboy, Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli and Agjabadi regions of Azerbaijan.

It is particularly disturbing that “Tochka-U” (SS-21 Scarab) tactical missiles, multiple rocket launch systems (MRLS), including “Smerch” (SA-N-12 Grizzly) “URAGAN” (SA-N-7 Gadfly) and “GRAD” (BM-21), as well as other heavy artillery are used by the armed forces of Armenia to deliberately target the residential areas and other civilian objects in Azerbaijan.

On 3 October 2020, the Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire Tartar city, the Shikharh village of the district, the village of Sogan-Verdiler and the Amirli settlement of the Barda district, Aghdam settlement of the Tovuz district, Dashkesen district, Jojugh Marjanli village of Jabrayil district, the villages of Hindiristan, Alibeyli, Ahmadaghali and Safarli Guzanli settlement of the Aghdam district. Armenian armed units targeted the Sabirkend settlement of the Shamkir district from the territory of Armenia and the Guzanly village of the Agdam district from the occupied territories using artillery fire and rockets.

Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large-horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

From 4 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia expanded the area of their strikes, using tactical ballistic missiles, targeting densely populated major cities of Azerbaijan and the critical civilian infrastructure of a regional importance situated far away from the combat zone (Exhibit 1).

Thus, on 4 October, the armed forces of Armenia launched massive missile attacks from the territory of Armenia against the densely populated residential areas of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan situated 60 kilometres away from the front line. Ganja was hit with multiple rocket launch systems (MRLS). As a result, 1 civilian resident of Ganja was killed and 32 others, including 6 children, were wounded. Serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian infrastructure and historical buildings in Ganja. As a result of armed attacks by Armenia, serious damages have been inflicted upon civilians, infrastructure, historical buildings, international hospital, school, furniture factory and central market (Exhibit 2).

The armed forces of Armenia expand geography of its attacks close to the capital Baku, which hosts three million people. Thus, on 4 October, the Turkoba village of the Khizi district of Azerbaijan, situated 200 kilometres from the front line and about 80 kilometres from the capital city of Baku, and the Pirishikul village of the Absheron district of Azerbaijan, situated about 250 kilometres from the combat zone and only 15 kilometres from Baku were hit with “Scud” tactical ballistic missiles (Exhibit 3).

On 4 October, Mingachevir, the fourth largest city in Azerbaijan situated 100 kilometres from the front line, was hit with three “Smerch” rockets, two of which fell unexploded in close vicinity to the Mingachevir Water Hydropower Complex and the private house, while the third rocket caused extensive damage to the house and wounded five civilians. Mingachevir Hydropower Complex is the largest dam of its kind in the entire Caucasus region with an overall surface area of 605 square kilometres. The complex provides electric energy for over forty cities and districts in Azerbaijan, including capital Baku and city of Ganja. Consequences of a possible missile strike on the Mingachevir reservoir will be catastrophic for Azerbaijan and the entire region (Exhibit 4).

On 5 October, the Armenian armed forces continued tactical ballistic missile, large-calibre artillery and rocket strikes on densely populated areas of Ganja, Mingachevir, Beylagan, Goranboy, Goygol, Barda, Terter, Zardab, Khizi and Absheron districts from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the territory of Armenia, including from Gorus, Sisyan, Jemruk and Berd cities.

On 6 October, armed forces of Armenia fired cluster rockets to the area in the vicinity of Yevlakh district. The rockets landed ten metres way from the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. Fortunately, the pipeline was not damaged (Exhibit 5). This delegation informed the Permanent Council about the warmongering statements by the Armenian officials threatening to target Azerbaijan’s civilian infrastructure, including critical energy infrastructure. This recent attack demonstrates that these were not mere threats and targeting civilian infrastructure is part of Armenia’s military doctrine that has materialized into actions. We will distribute the updated factsheet to all participating States.

Since the outbreak of hostilities on 27 September 2020, in total, 30 Azerbaijani civilians were killed and 143 civilians were wounded, 427 residential buildings and 66 civilian facilities, including hospitals, medical facilities, ambulances, schools, kindergartens and energy infrastructure, were either destroyed or damaged as a result of Armenia's shelling of cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan (Exhibit 6).

In order to repulse the aggression and ensure the safety of the civilian population, the armed forces of Azerbaijan continue the counter-offensive operation, neutralizing Armenian fire and stronghold battle positions and liberating the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan from enemy occupation, in the exercise of right of self-defence and in full compliance with international humanitarian law, exclusively on Azerbaijan's sovereign soil. The Republic of Azerbaijan has no land claims to any State, but will not yield an inch of its territory to anyone.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan is making every possible effort to prevent harm to the civilian population as well as comply with the rules for dealing with missing and dead. The armed forces of Azerbaijan act in accordance with the requirements of the memorandum of standards of the international humanitarian law, which must be adhered to by the parties of international armed conflict. Our servicemen have already provided protection to the Armenian resident settled in the liberated Fizuli region, supplied with medical and other assistance, and transported to safer place outside of the zone of operation in Azerbaijan (Exhibit 7).

As of 7 October among the destroyed weapons of the armed forces of Armenia deployed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan there are about 250 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 270 artillery pieces, multiple rocket launch systems and mortars, 60 air defence systems, an S-300 anti-aircraft missile system, 11 command control and command observation posts, 8 ammunition depots and 150 military vehicles.

During the counter-offensive operation the armed forces of Azerbaijan liberated Sugovshan and Talish villages of Tartar region, Ashagi Abdurahmanli village of Fuzuli region, Jabrayil city as well as Mehdili, Charkhili, Ashagi Maralyan, Shaybay, Guyjag, Karkhulu, Shukurbayli, Yukhari Maralyan, Charakan, Dashkasan, Horovlu, Dejal, Mahmudlu, Jafarabad, Shikhali Aghali, Sarijali and Mazra villages.

The evidence collected before and throughout the current hostilities clearly indicates that Armenia also actively recruits foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries to use in combats against Azerbaijan. For this purpose, Armenian diaspora organizations operating in various countries under the disguise of charity and non-governmental organizations raise funds and collect other material means to finance terrorist activities and support the aggression of Armenia and attacks of its armed forces against the civilian population in Azerbaijan. According to international mass media reports, thousands of ethnic Armenians from different countries, including from OSCE participating States, have already arrived in the conflict zone under the disguise of "volunteers" or in the process of deployment.

Before the latest act of aggression on 27 September 2020, there were reports on 300 militants belonging to the PKK transferred by Armenia from various countries in the Middle East and placed in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, where they have subsequently begun training with Armenia's military. In addition to the deployment of

PKK terrorists, there were also reports of Kurdish civilians from those countries earlier relocated in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and provided with one-time cash benefits or 20-year low-interest loans.

Between 2011 and 2017, more than 20,000 Syrian nationals were settled in Armenia and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. There are credible reports that nationals from Syria and Lebanon are resettled in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Since August 2020, nine families from Lebanon were settled there. The video footage appeared on 29 October 2020 showed the Lebanese national acknowledging fighting in the ranks of Armenia's army against Azerbaijan.

Armenia and Armenian diaspora organizations bear legal liability for these actions, which clearly run contrary to international law and resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) of the United Nations Security Council, which prohibit the use of foreign terrorist fighters and oblige States to suppress such acts and financing of terrorism.

The OSCE participating States, in whose territories these activities allegedly are carried out or financed also bear responsibility and under the obligation to check these sources of information, and if they hold true, suppress the mobilization of foreign terrorist fighters and prosecute the travel or attempted travel abroad for terrorist purposes. In that regard, it is critical that the respective authorities of OSCE participating States, origin or transit, exercise due diligence in light of the increased intensity of travel by their nationals and residents to Armenia and undertake necessary preventive border control measures, as well as take all required steps to prevent their territories from being used for supporting or financing terrorist activities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The act of aggression resorted to by Armenia on 27 September is yet another blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, fundamental norms and principles of international law, international humanitarian law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly.

Armenia's attacks directed at civilians, the murder and injuring of civilians and attacks that caused indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian objects in Azerbaijan amount to war crimes under international humanitarian law, for which Armenia bears liability and which also incur individual criminal responsibility of the perpetrators.

The very fact of deliberate targeting of civilians and the deployment of such a large number of troops and armaments in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan proves that Armenia is the aggressor and that all public pronouncements of Armenia about its alleged adherence to ceasefire and peaceful settlement are nothing other than a hollow rhetoric and smokescreen to camouflage the clear-cut annexationist objectives.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the continuation of Armenia's aggression and its unlawful presence in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are the main causes of the conflict and the tensions in the region. The Republic of Azerbaijan has also consistently stated that, as a country suffering from occupation of its territories and forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of its citizens, it is the most interested party in finding a soonest and durable settlement of the conflict.

In contrast, having used military force to occupy the territories of Azerbaijan, repeatedly violated the ceasefire and resorted to armed provocations, Armenia has demonstrated its firm conviction in the existence of an alternative to peace and political solution. The simple cause of that was that Armenia's territorial claims and military actions had been aimed from the very beginning at seizing the territories by means of force. Since the cessation of hostilities in 1994, Armenia has never engaged faithfully in negotiations. The only purpose pursued by Armenia was to consolidate the occupation and achieve the annexation of the territories of Azerbaijan under the cover of ceasefire and peace process.

The lack of condemnation by the OSCE and its Minsk Group to provocations, aggressive actions and unlawful activities of Armenia, notorious double standards and selectivity with regard to the universally recognized obligations and commitments under international law, including those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, only contributed to Armenia's sense of impunity and permissiveness.

The Republic of Azerbaijan remains committed to resolution of the conflict by political means on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), as well as the decisions of the OSCE, which provide legal and political framework for the conflict settlement. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, in full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

As the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev declared publicly, there is still a chance to resolve the conflict by political means. For that the OSCE and its Minsk Group Co-Chairs have to convince Armenia to agree to the following: (1) Prime Minister of Armenia should apologize to the Azerbaijani people and say that Karabakh is not Armenia; (2) Armenia must recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan; (3) Armenia must end the hostilities and withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan; and (4) Armenia must unequivocally commit to implementation of a timetable for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which will be guaranteed by the co-chairing countries. In case of a failure by Armenia to implement the timetable, Azerbaijan shall resume exercising its right of self-defence in conformity with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Implementation of these steps will be conducive for restoration of ceasefire and resumption of result-oriented negotiations. The OSCE and its Minsk Group Co-Chairs have to persuade Armenia to demonstrate its commitment to peace and security in the region by accepting this path forward.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.DEC/1380
8 October 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1284th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1284, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1380
DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2020 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN
CONFERENCE**

(Vienna, Austria, and via Zoom, 3 November 2020)

The Permanent Council,

Decides to hold the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Vienna, Austria and via Zoom on 3 November 2020, hosted by the Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group.

The Conference will be a one-day event. This decision is due to the extraordinary and unpredictable circumstances caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, does not establish any precedent for the organization of future Mediterranean Conferences.

The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will be further elaborated in the framework of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group and submitted to the Permanent Council for adoption.



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

PC.DEC/1381
8 October 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1284th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1284, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1381
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE 2020 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE**

(Vienna, Austria, and via Zoom, 3 November 2020)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1380 of 8 October 2020 on the date and venue of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, and via Zoom on 3 November 2020, hosted by the Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group,

Decides to hold the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on the subject “Promoting security in the OSCE Mediterranean region through sustainable development and economic growth”,

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference, as contained in the annex.

AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2020 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Vienna, Austria, and via Zoom, 3 November 2020

I. Indicative agenda

Introduction

At the 2019 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Tirana, ministers and other high-level representatives of the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation reviewed the Mediterranean Partnership on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. They concurred that celebrations provided a welcome opportunity to shape the future of the Partnership rather than simply commemorating past achievements. In the spirit of growing co-operation and genuine partnership, the 2019 OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava renamed the Mediterranean Contact Group into OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group.

Against this backdrop, Sweden as the Chairmanship of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group promoted political dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on a range of crucial topics with a view to intensifying the exchange of best practices and identifying areas for long-term co-operation. Topics included: information technology and the fight against human trafficking; women, peace, and security; youth engagement and participation to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

To conclude the 2020 programme, the OSCE Mediterranean Conference will address the topic of “Promoting security in the OSCE Mediterranean region through sustainable development and economic growth”. The event shall start with a high-level political segment discussing how to promote security through sustainable development and economic growth at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thematic sessions shall then tackle specific aspects, including the economic participation of women and promoting environmental co-operation.

In so doing, the Conference shall provide a platform for “advancing a common approach in tackling challenges ... and seizing emerging opportunities, in a spirit of genuine partnership, co-operation, and ownership”, as called for by the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18).

Tuesday, 3 November 2020

- Registration of participants
- Opening remarks

- High-level political segment: comprehensive response to current security challenges: promoting security through sustainable development and economic growth during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Lunch
- Session I: Women’s economic empowerment
- Coffee break
- Session II: Promoting environmental co-operation
- Concluding remarks

II. Participation

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) will participate in and contribute to the Conference. The Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference. The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: Adriatic Ionian Initiative, African Development Bank, African Union, Central European Initiative, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Council of Europe, Economic Co-operation Organization, Eurasian Economic Union, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, European Union, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean, Financial Action Task Force, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, Islamic Development Bank, Inter-parliamentary Union, League of Arab States, Mediterranean Forum, Middle East and North Africa Region Financial Action Task Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, OPEC Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Regional Co-operation Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, South Eastern Europe Co-operation Process, Union for the Mediterranean, UN Habitat, United Nations, UN Al-Qaida Sanctions Monitoring Team, United Cities and Local Governments, UNICEF, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Women, Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Bank.

Additional organizations may be invited by the host country to observe the Conference.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations may be invited by the host country to attend and may be invited to contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

Other countries may be invited by the host country to attend and may be invited to contribute to the Conference.

III. Organizational modalities

The Conference will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. The Conference will be a one-day event. This decision is due to the extraordinary and unpredictable circumstances caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, does not establish any precedent for the organization of future Mediterranean Conferences.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur appointed by the Chairperson. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council for further consideration.

Appropriate arrangements for press coverage will be made.

The 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will be held in English and French. This arrangement will not constitute a precedent that can be relied upon in other circumstances.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Conference. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.