
Chairmanship: Albania

1277th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 30 July 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconferencing)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Suspended: 6.55 p.m.
Resumed: 10.05 a.m. (Monday, 31 August 2020)
Closed: 10.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani
Mr. A. Stastoli

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: FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT

Chairperson, Albania (CIO.GAL/130/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1055/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1052/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1071/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1082/20), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1051/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1059/20 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1058/20), Belarus (PC.DEL/1054/20 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1060/20 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/1053/20 OSCE+), Slovakia (PC.DEL/1073/20 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1066/20), Canada (PC.DEL/1069/20 OSCE+), Malta (PC.DEL/1074/20/Rev.1 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Discussion under agenda item 3

Agenda item 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson, OSCE External Auditor, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, United States of America (PC.DEL/1056/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1057/20), Germany, 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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1081/20), United Kingdom, Spain

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1373 (PC.DEC/1373) on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 and the Report of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE OSCE INFORMATION SECURITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1374 (PC.DEC/1374) on the extension of the OSCE Information Security Enhancement Fund, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

(a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1067/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1070/20 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1068/20 OSCE+), 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 Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1083/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/1085/20 OSCE+), United

States of America (PC.DEL/1061/20), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/1086/20 OSCE+)

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1063/20), Ukraine
- (c) *Violations of human rights in the Baltic States:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1062/20), Latvia (also on behalf of Estonia and Lithuania) (PC.DEL/1072/20 OSCE+)
- (d) *Persistent violation of the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities and other ethnic communities in Ukraine:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1064/20), Ukraine
- (e) *Violence against the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan in France, Sweden, Poland, the United States of America, the Netherlands and Belgium, and the need to implement obligations under international law and OSCE commitments:* Azerbaijan (Annex 1) (PC.DEL/1076/20 OSCE+), Belgium, United States of America (PC.DEL/1088/20), Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, France
- (f) *Promotion of hate crimes by Azerbaijan in the OSCE participating States:* Armenia (Annex 2) (PC.DEL/1095/20), Azerbaijan, United States of America (PC.DEL/1089/20), Russian Federation
- (g) *Turkey's aggressive policy and military posturing as a destabilizing factor in the South Caucasus:* Armenia (Annex 3) (PC.DEL/1096/20), Turkey (Annex 4) (PC.DEL/1097/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (Annex 5) (PC.DEL/1078/20 OSCE+)
- (h) *Human dimension violations during the COVID-19 pandemic:* United States of America (PC.DEL/1087/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1065/20), Turkey, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan
- (i) *Passing of human rights defender Mr. Azimjan Askarov:* 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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1080/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1116/20), Switzerland, Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/1120/20 OSCE+), Chairperson, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1118/20)
- (j) *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, observed on 30 July 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; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Canada,

Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)
(PC.DEL/1079/20), Belarus (PC.DEL/1084/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation,
United States of America (PC.DEL/1115/20), Holy See (PC.DEL/1111/20
OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Informal meetings on thematic centres/hubs on sustainable connectivity, held on 1, 17 and 24 July 2020: Chairperson*
- (b) *Resumption of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) on 30 July 2020: Chairperson*

Agenda item 8: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the Secretariat (SEC.GAL/112/20 OSCE+): Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the OSCE, Ambassador J. Zlamets: Chairperson, Dean of the Permanent Council (Liechtenstein), Latvia*
- (b) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE, Ambassador N. Cayer: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 3 September 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconferencing



1277th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 6(e)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the cases of violence against the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan in France, Sweden, Poland, the United States of America, the Netherlands and Belgium.

In the period from 16 to 22 July 2020, the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the above-mentioned OSCE participating States were attacked by radical Armenian groups. The attacks and acts of vandalism inflicted significant material damage to the premises and property of the diplomatic missions and their staff members. In some instances, radical Armenian groups made efforts to penetrate the diplomatic premises. Despite advance notice, the local law enforcement authorities of the said States did not provide sufficient protection and security to the diplomatic missions and to their property and staff members.

We would like to recall that in accordance with Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the participating States are “under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity”. Thus, we call on participating States to ensure adequate protection of the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan and of their staff. In particular, we call on Poland to take appropriate measures in relation to the police officer who in the course of demonstration attacked a diplomat in violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We expect the law enforcement authorities of participating States to investigate these incidents and to bring those responsible to justice. We expect the delegations of these States in Vienna to report on the results of these investigations to the Permanent Council.

Furthermore, radical Armenian groups have organized attacks against members of the Azerbaijani community in these and other States. These attacks have aroused profound concern over manifestations of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and violent extremism, and over hate crimes, terrorism and terrorist propaganda in violation of relevant OSCE commitments. The extensive use of terrorist propaganda is a cause for particular concern.

On such occasions, persons wearing signs of notorious Armenian terrorist organizations such as ASALA, which is officially listed as a terrorist organization by the

United States of America and some European countries, gathered in front of buildings of diplomatic missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They attempted to obstruct peaceful and pre-authorized demonstrations by Azerbaijani community members, resorted to open provocations, such as disgracing the national flag and other national symbols of Azerbaijan, and physically and verbally assaulted individual Azerbaijanis, including diplomats and journalists. As a result, Azerbaijani community members have been harassed and intimidated, several of them seriously wounded and taken to hospital, and material damage has been inflicted upon their private property.

Along with massive physical violence, members of the Armenian diaspora have extensively used the Internet to mobilize and disseminate hatred and intimidation against Azerbaijanis. Social media have been widely abused in order to insult Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis; even overt death threats have been published through social media accounts.

The Government of Azerbaijan has taken swift legal and diplomatic measures to ensure the inviolability of its diplomatic missions and the safety and security of its compatriots residing abroad. The Azerbaijani authorities are determined to take further steps by means of all available bilateral and multilateral mechanisms in order to ensure that justice is served and all perpetrators of these heinous barbaric acts, as well as their masterminds are brought to justice.

In the meantime, in order to avoid further aggravation of the situation, the Azerbaijani authorities have appealed to our compatriots to exercise self-restraint and strictly obey the rules and regulations of the countries of their residence, and the respective diplomatic missions have been given instructions in the same spirit. Unfortunately, a similar approach has not been manifested by the Government of Armenia, which has failed to publicly denounce the events and to issue a similar appeal to Armenians abroad to refrain from further provocations and violence. This attests to the real intent and motivation behind these events.

It should not be oversimplified that the violence resorted to by the radical Armenian diaspora organizations is simply a bilateral Armenia-Azerbaijan issue. On the contrary, it should be seen as a reckless attempt to export Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict-related tensions into the societies of other OSCE participating States, which if not reversed, may seriously threaten the rule of law and public order in the countries concerned.

The participating States have made numerous commitments to counter manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism, hate speech and hate crimes, and terrorism and terrorist propaganda, also in the media and on the Internet, and to denounce such crimes publicly when they occur, notably in the Rome Ministerial Council Declaration of 1993, the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 1999, Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 6 (MC(10).DEC/6) on tolerance and non-discrimination, the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (MC(10).JOUR/2, annex 1) likewise adopted at the Porto Ministerial Council of 2002, and Permanent Council Decision No. 621 of 2004 on tolerance and the fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination. These are collectively agreed OSCE commitments, the faithful implementation of which is the mutual responsibility of all participating States vis-à-vis each other. Therefore, the Azerbaijani side expects all OSCE participating States concerned to take prompt steps arising from their relevant OSCE commitments and to inform the Permanent Council accordingly.

At the same time, we urge the relevant OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, within their respective mandates, to pay proper attention to open and gross violations of OSCE commitments relevant to the matter under discussion, to publicly condemn the latest manifestations by the Armenian diaspora organizations of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and terrorist propaganda, and to assist the respective OSCE participating States in fulfilling their relevant commitments.

The delegation of Azerbaijan will closely follow the issue within the Organization and counts on the constructive engagement and good will of all concerned.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1277th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 6(f)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Our delegation has introduced the current issue on of the promotion of hate crimes by Azerbaijan in the OSCE participating States in order to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the numerous cases of hate crimes against people of Armenian origin in different cities and locations of the OSCE participating States, following the failed military offensive of Azerbaijan on north-eastern part of the State border of Armenia.

We have been witnessing cases of and attempts at violence against Armenian citizens and members of Armenian communities in various countries. There have been cases of obstruction of the normal work of the Armenian diplomatic service abroad and the Armenian communities, as well as a deliberate destruction of their property, which in some cases have threatened the security of diplomatic staff as well.

The following are the cases of ethnically motivated hate crimes, attacks, intimidation, and harassment perpetrated by Azerbaijani mobs against people of Armenian origin, including the participants of the peaceful gatherings organized by Armenian communities in various OSCE participating States.

In Belgium

On 26 July, after an Armenian protest demonstration, hundreds of aggressively behaving Azerbaijanis took to the streets of Brussels, clearly in search of Armenians.

In Germany

In the night of 22/23 July, at twelve minutes past midnight, the official car of the embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Germany was set on fire while parked in front of the Armenian embassy in Berlin.

Yesterday a mob of Azerbaijanis attacked an Armenian-owned hookah bar in Cologne.

In the United Kingdom

On 17 July, Azerbaijanis attacked and provoked Armenians during a peaceful protest in London. The brawl occurred when a female Azerbaijani protester crossed to the Armenian side and ripped the poster from a peaceful Armenian protester.

In the Netherlands

On 19 July, stones were thrown at peaceful Armenian protesters from the premises of the embassy of Azerbaijan in The Hague.

In the Russian Federation

On 20 July, some Moscow markets owned by Azerbaijani businessmen banned the sale of agricultural products from Armenia.

On 23 July, an Armenian man in Moscow was subjected to a violent ethnic-based attack by a group of Azerbaijanis. He was beaten with a gun grip in a failed attempt to force him to say: "Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan."

On 23 July, another Armenian man was beaten up by a group of Azerbaijanis in Moscow. On the same day, in another place, another outrageous case took place - an old Armenian man was beaten up by a group of Azerbaijanis.

On 24 July, in a leaked video, one of the organizers of the Moscow attacks named Kamil Zeynalli was heard calling for the spilling of Armenian blood and assuring listeners that there would be no consequences, saying "The President is with us," and "Even if you're deported, you'll return as heroes." He was obviously inspired by Azerbaijan's track record of welcoming criminals as heroes, the axe-murderer Ramil Safarov being a notable case in point.

On 24 July, Azerbaijanis attacked, looted and vandalized an Armenian store in Moscow.

In the United States of America

On 19 July, during a protest in front of the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington, D.C., a peaceful Armenian protester was sexually harassed by Azerbaijani demonstrators.

On 20 July, in Washington, D.C., crowds of Azerbaijani and Turkish protesters chanted "Jihad" slogans and flashed neo-fascist insignia of the Grey Wolves organization as they rallied and marched in front of the Armenian embassy.

On 23 July, many Armenians in southern California are reported to have received robocalls saying "Hello, dirty Armenian".

On 24 July, the Krouzian-Zakarian-Vasbourgan (KZV) Armenian School in San Francisco was vandalized overnight as part of a series of global attacks on Armenians.

On 25 July, peacefully protesting Armenians in Boston were attacked by 15 to 20 Azerbaijanis carrying brass knuckles. One of the Armenians had to be taken to hospital.

In Turkey

On 27 July, three young Armenians were attacked by a group of Azerbaijanis in Istanbul. Two other Armenians aged over 50, one of them a woman, were attacked and beaten up in the same district.

In Ukraine

On 23 July, an Armenian café that had been set on fire was shown in a video with an Azerbaijani saying, “This is an Armenian café in Kyiv. It [the fire] is a gift from Azerbaijanis.” Another such attack was prevented.

The evidence and information that we have allows us to claim with a high level of accuracy that these aggressive actions of Azerbaijani mobs were orchestrated and directed by the embassies of Azerbaijan in the respective countries. Furthermore, in at least one case we have evidence that implies the support of the Turkish embassy as well. On your screens you see the twitter account of the Azerbaijani Ambassador in Switzerland. The subject of the tweet is very much self-explanatory [see document PC.DEL/1092/20].

To further support our claim, I would quote a passage from the tweet by President Aliyev on 27 July: “Azerbaijanis living abroad know that a strong Azerbaijani State stands behind them. Today, every patriotic citizen of Azerbaijan can be proud of his motherland.”

That this message was aired in the context and at time of extreme ethnic violence was a manifestation of encouragement and an assurance of impunity to perpetrators on the part of the high political leadership of Azerbaijan.

The facts of the involvement of Azerbaijani officials in the actions against the diplomatic missions of Armenia prove that the above-mentioned actions are co-ordinated by the Azerbaijani official structures. It is noteworthy that the former Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the EU and Council of Europe, Arif Mammadov, has pinpointed the involvement of the Azerbaijani special services working under the umbrella of diplomatic missions in organizing and arranging this ethnic violence.

This outrageous violation of the norms of conduct by diplomatic missions is to be condemned and should be a matter of thorough investigation. We further expect that the respective countries will take necessary action to bring the perpetrators to justice. At the same time, we would like to thank authorities and law enforcement agencies in the relevant OSCE participating States for handling this situation effectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

These attacks, though seemingly a new phenomenon, are in fact the continuation of the Armenophobia and hate propaganda with which Azerbaijani society has been indoctrinated for decades.

To help my esteemed colleagues to fully understand the extent and scope of the problem, I will mention just a few examples.

On a number of occasions President Aliyev has used derogatory and inflammatory language when referring to Armenia and the Armenians. In 2012, he declared that Azerbaijan's "main enemies" were "the Armenians of the world".

The Azerbaijani President has also made the following statement: "Armenia as a country is of no value. It is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad, a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands."

The notorious case of the pardon and glorification of Ramil Safarov after his transfer from Hungary is another case in point. Our delegation has already stated Armenia's position on that issue. Safarov, an Azerbaijani military officer, was convicted of the premeditated brutal murder of an Armenian fellow officer in 2004. He was "treated as an innocent or wrongfully convicted person and bestowed with benefits," said the European Court of Human Rights judgment.

Already as far back as in 2005, the mayor of Baku, Hajibala Abutalybov, stated at a meeting with a municipal delegation from Bavaria, Germany: "Our goal is the complete elimination of Armenians. You, Nazis, already eliminated the Jews in the 1930s and 40s, right? You should be able to understand us."

These are just a few examples of State campaigns that Azerbaijani authorities are propagating at the State level with the aim of instilling hatred and intolerance against any Armenian in the hearts and minds of Azerbaijanis. Moreover, the negative stereotypes about Armenians are promoted by the majority of mass media outlets in Azerbaijan. According to the Azerbaijani human rights activist Arif Yunus, who was arrested together with his wife Leila Yunus and sentenced for seven years in prison on bogus charges, and now lives in exile, Azerbaijani school textbooks label Armenians with such epithets as "bandits", "aggressors", "treacherous" and "hypocritical" and thus "fuel negative feelings among society towards Armenians."

What is more, anyone with an Armenian family name is denied the right to enter Azerbaijan, regardless of his/her citizenship.

Armenia repeatedly raised the awareness among its international partners, both bilaterally and in multilateral settings, of threats and dangers inherent in these anti-Armenian policies perpetrated and promoted by the Azerbaijani leadership. In the past we have warned that the anti-Armenian hatred in Azerbaijani society had reached such a level that with the slightest manipulation it would spill over the territorial boundaries of the State of Azerbaijan and onto the streets of cities throughout the world. This is exactly what we are witnessing today.

We firmly believe that the absence of adequate reaction from the international community, amounting to indulgence towards Azerbaijan and its despotic authorities, has further emboldened the ruling regime of that country in its pursuit of anti-Armenian hate propaganda.

We strongly condemn the instigation of ethnic clashes in different countries, which is another manifestation of Baku's irresponsibility and is fully in line with the policy and rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership provoking hostility between the two peoples without geographical restrictions.



1277th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 6(g)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Two weeks ago we informed the participating States of the military offensive of Azerbaijan against Armenia at the north-eastern part of the border. Even though the active hostilities have ceased, Azerbaijan continues to violate the ceasefire. Three days ago an Armenian serviceman was fatally wounded by sniper fire and yesterday another serviceman was wounded, again by sniper fire.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan announced joint large-scale military exercises with Turkey to be held from 29 July to 10 August in Baku, Nakhichevan, Ganja, Kurdamir and Yevlakh with the participation of thousands of military personnel, hundreds of armoured combat vehicles and artillery pieces, and military aviation including combat aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles. It should be stressed that all these developments are taking place just a few days after the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued a statement in which they particularly emphasize the importance of strictly adhering to the ceasefire and call on the parties to refrain from any provocative action in this delicate period. Therefore, we view these drills as a deliberate act of joint provocation aimed at further increasing tensions in the region.

All this demonstrates that the leadership of Azerbaijan, through its provocative actions, is undermining the efforts of the international mediators aimed at de-escalating the situation and resuming the peace process, thus bearing the responsibility for the consequences of further destabilization.

We have already discussed at length the aggressive militaristic policy of Azerbaijan directed against Armenia and Artsakh. Clearly, without strong support from Turkey Azerbaijan would not be able to sustain instability on the borders particularly after the recent events. In this vein, we would like to specifically draw the attention of the OSCE participating States to the evolving aggressive policy and military posturing of Turkey towards Armenia in particular and in the South Caucasus region in general. Turkish military posturing against Armenia is also manifested in its extensive military involvement in Nakhichevan. We are convinced that we shall not overlook the role that Turkey played in the recent flare-up along Armenia-Azerbaijan border.

Ever since the attack launched on 12 July by Azerbaijani armed forces at the north-eastern part of the State border of Armenia, Turkey has been the only OSCE participating State to express its unconditional support for Azerbaijan's military adventurism against Armenia.

High-level officials of Turkey, including President Erdogan and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence have issued several statements containing groundless accusations against Armenia and its people. Turkey has also pledged to upgrade Azerbaijan's military equipment and supply new systems, including drones, missiles and electronic warfare devices. It should be noted that these statements were made when an active armed offensive by Azerbaijan was still ongoing.

This stance of Turkey has been in stark contrast with the positions and approaches of responsible members of the international community, who have been calling for the immediate cessation of hostilities.

Turkey's statements, quite apart from fuelling the tensions on the ground, have clearly demonstrated regional ambitions towards the South Caucasus, which the President of Turkey, along with other officials, has attempted to substantiate by referring to Turkey's "historic mission" in the region. For Armenia and the Armenian people, these statements are reminiscent of our past tragedy – the Armenian Genocide perpetrated and carried out by the Ottoman Empire, which Turkish authorities have always denied. Even more, in recent years Turkey's leaders have even started to justify the Armenian Genocide, calling its victims "bandits" and the survivors of the Genocide the "leftovers of the sword". For the record, many people living in the Republic of Armenia are descendants of those survivors and have every reason to resist Turkey's regional ambitions, which are framed with the dubious notions of kinship solidarity and of denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Invoking its historic mission and ethnic or religious affiliations, Turkey has already destabilized the situation in a number of neighbouring regions - in the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa - causing immeasurable sufferings to the peoples of those regions.

With its approaches and posturing, Turkey is a security threat for Armenia and the region, and it must be countered with broad regional and international co-operation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the early stages of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Turkey, despite being a member of the OSCE Minsk Group, has been playing a destructive role in the resolution process. We never see Turkey display the kind of responsible and balanced behaviour that should be part and parcel of the foreign policy posture of a country with an ambition of being an important player in the region. The stance of the Turkish leadership and its open encouragement of Azerbaijan's maximalist approaches in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution process – most notably during the recent aggression of Azerbaijan against Armenia – clearly show that Turkey remains part of the problem and not its solution. Turkey's provocative and biased stance seriously undermines the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and proves that Turkey cannot be involved in any international processes related to the conflict, first and foremost within the OSCE framework.

In this context I would like to reiterate the long-standing position of Armenia with regard to the composition of the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG). Since the July escalation, these concerns are undeniable and no activity of the HLPG which involves a Turkish officer will be supported by Armenia.

Mr. Chairperson,

Armenia as a responsible member of the international community is implementing in good faith all its commitments, including those with regards arms control regimes and confidence- and security-building measures.

Despite all anti-Armenian policies, every year Armenia has hosted military inspections from Turkey under the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document. It is worth mentioning that such inspections have mainly been carried out along the Armenia-Azerbaijan State border. In 2019 Turkey conducted two inspections under the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document in the Tavush province of Armenia which came under attack by Azerbaijan in July 2020. Given Turkey's openly expressed support of and military assistance to Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia has legitimate concerns as to the true intentions behind those military inspections.

Moreover, the joint military exercise that is currently underway is not the first one conducted in the immediate proximity of Armenia's borders and aimed as an intimidation tactic against Armenia. Here I should recall that on previous occasions, particularly during the 851st, 857th and 914th meetings of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the delegation of Armenia requested the Turkish delegation to provide information on Turkey-Azerbaijan joint military exercises. That our requests remained unanswered once again shows that Turkey is not ready to address Armenia's legitimate security concerns in a transparent and trustful manner.

Under these circumstances, the Republic of Armenia through its note verbale distributed under the reference number SEC.DEL/273/20 has informed the OSCE participating States and the State Parties to the CFE Treaty that it will not be in a position to accept military inspections and guest inspectors from Turkey under the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document, as any military inspection carried out on the territory of the Republic of Armenia by Turkey would adversely affect the security interests of Armenia and undermine the security of its population, which is contrary to the principles of the CFE Treaty and Vienna Document.

At the same time, I should underscore that Armenia remains committed to the implementation of the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document. It is our firm conviction that arms control regimes in the OSCE area and beyond are indispensable tools for increasing transparency, predictability and accountability, provided that these instruments are implemented in a good faith.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, we would like to call on the OSCE participating States to react properly to the hostile actions of Turkey against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, which

constitute a threat to the security and stability of the entire OSCE area in general and the South Caucasus in particular, and to take all the necessary efforts to prevent the further escalation of tensions in the South Caucasus.



1277th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 6(g)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I totally reject the allegations of the Armenian colleague. These are allegations we have heard not only under this current issue but also on another occasion at this meeting and which we maybe hear every time the Armenian colleague takes the floor. We had to listen to a masterpiece of hypocrisy. The whole of the statement by Armenia was a product of a smear campaign against Turkey. Armenia's desperate efforts do not and will not cover up its aggressive actions towards its neighbours.

Let us get the facts straight.

The real threat and the source of instability in South Caucasus lie in Armenian aggressive policies and acts. Just to give some examples:

First, Nagorno-Karabakh and seven other regions of Azerbaijan, which makes 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan, have been occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. This is a blatant violation of international law, relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Helsinki Final Act.

Second, Armenia's aggressive policy in the region became once again evident on 12 July – this time on the State border between Azerbaijan and Armenia. This brazen aggression is nothing but another testimony to Armenia's total disregard for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a neighbouring country.

Third, the Armenian leadership has for some time been laying down a self-legitimizing basis for an aggressive policy in the name of defending Armenia. A clear demonstration of this was their new National Security Strategy, published a few days before 12 July. Unfortunately, the Armenian Government sees no harm in joining hardliners who look at the world through anti-Turkish lenses.

Fourth, in addition to its ongoing gross violations of OSCE principles and commitments, Armenia declared yesterday that it will not abide by its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and the Vienna Document. Here is not the forum where we need to speak about politico-military aspects, but let me underline that the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document are the main pillars of Euro-Atlantic

security. Our principal position in implementing them with full respect for the rules also applies to the inspections exercised by Turkey in Armenia. Armenia's decision not to accept military inspections or guest inspectors from Turkey constitutes a clear violation of Vienna Document commitments and legally binding CFE obligations. Moreover, it is bound to contribute to escalation in the region at the time of this critical and challenging security situation. We will distribute our detailed reply in the course of time and address this issue on the appropriate platforms, so I will not elaborate more on this at the moment.

All these facts demonstrate clearly that Armenia is the destabilizing factor in the region.

Azerbaijan is a country with which Turkey has deep-rooted friendly ties and brotherly relations. We are proud of these relations. It is natural that Turkey, like some other countries, co-operates with Azerbaijan in enhancing its defence capacity. There are no moral impediments or any contradiction with international law in helping Azerbaijan meet its need to defend its legitimate rights, including its territorial integrity. The recent joint military exercise by Turkey and Azerbaijan was scheduled long before and did not target any country. In fact, these exercises with land and air components have been held for several years. For example, they were also held in spring and late summer in 2019, based on earlier plans.

Turkey's basic vision for the South Caucasus is to make the region a space of stability and co-operation. Thus, I would like to reiterate once again that as a member of the Minsk Group and as a country of the region, Turkey will continue to support the efforts towards the peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allegations concerning the "Armenian genocide" have no factual historical or legal basis. "Genocide" is a very narrow legal concept and denotes a clearly defined crime which can only be established by a competent court as defined in the 1948 Genocide Convention. There is neither such a verdict with regard to the 1915 events, nor any academic or political consensus reached at the international level. As a testament to this fact, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a milestone judgment on 15 October 2015. The Court held the Swiss Government responsible for violating Mr. Perinçek's right to freedom of expression following his conviction for rejecting the legal characterization of the 1915 events as "genocide".

On the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG), let me also underline that Turkey sees the HLPG as a valuable asset of the OSCE in the settlement process of the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference. We support its activities and priorities. We appreciate the HLPG's co-operation with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Permanent Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Kasprzyk. We consider that the Group's planning capacity as well as its current staff composition should be maintained.

I come from a generation of Turkish diplomats who joined the Ministry when colleagues and ambassadors of ours were martyred by the ASALA terrorist organization. When I am listening to the voice of the Armenian Ambassador from the black screen, I remember and I commemorate all Turkish diplomats assassinated by the ASALA terrorist

organization. We have highlighted on several occasions how Armenia glorifies these terrorists even years later in official ceremonies. It is shameful.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1277th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 6(g)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

We resolutely condemn the allegations by Armenia, which pursue the obvious purpose of distracting the attention of the international community from its continued military occupation of territories of Azerbaijan, which was achieved through the unlawful use of force, mass atrocities, ethnic cleansing and other flagrant violations of international law.

As far as Azerbaijan's joint military exercises with Turkey are concerned, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan have provided information on this topic. These exercises are conducted in accordance with the Agreement on Military Co-operation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey and in accordance with the annual plan. The exercises serve to enhance co-ordination and exchange of best practices between the armed forces of the two countries and contribute to strengthening regional peace and security.

In his desire to criticize and lecture other countries, the representative of Armenia slipped into his usual forgetfulness. Otherwise, he would have recollected that, most recently, Armenia conducted illegal military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in late April 2020 and from 22 to 26 June 2020. Furthermore, lately the Armenian armed forces have participated in joint military exercises with the Russian armed forces, both on the territory of Armenia, in particular with the Russian 102nd Military Base stationed at Gyumri in Armenia, and at other unspecified locations.

The note verbale of Armenia dated 29 July 2020 informing the OSCE that it will not be in a position to accept military inspections by Turkey under the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document is yet another manifestation of Armenia's discriminative approach to its commitments in the politico-military dimension and its consistent policy of aggravating the fragile security environment in the region. Armenia has previously denied participation in monitoring exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to the Turkish officer of the High-Level Planning Group on the basis of ethnic background or nationality, which is contrary to the OSCE rules and regulations prohibiting discrimination of any kind.

Turkey is a significant security provider in the region and as a trusted member of the OSCE Minsk Group actively contributes to the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and other conflicts and crises in the region and beyond. Turkey is a friendly and brotherly

nation and we thank our Turkish colleagues for standing up for the defence of OSCE principles and commitments.

Violations by Armenia of its commitments under the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document come in the wake of the recent violence against Azerbaijan's diplomatic missions and Azerbaijani community members abroad and of manifestations of intolerance and hate speech and incitement to violence by the Armenian diaspora organizations, which have close, almost umbilical links to the Government of Armenia. It is obvious that, together with the attack of the armed forces of Armenia against Azerbaijan on 12 July, a chain of events is being formed that is aimed at inflicting a final blow on the peace process.

Most recently, the Prime Minister of Armenia has publicly confessed that the strategic goal for Armenia in the settlement process of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is to "safeguard the results of the war". The Armenian leadership is thus publicly conditioning the resumption of negotiations, which have paused due to its own faults, on unrealistic and illegitimate claims, thus pursuing the notorious goal of making the annexation of the currently occupied territories of Azerbaijan a *fait accompli*. We will distribute a factsheet on statements of Armenian officials attesting to Armenia's offensive posturing.

We consider the stance of Armenia to be an open challenge to the conflict settlement process. Before ruining the Minsk process beyond repair, Armenia should think twice about the options left on the table. We call on the OSCE Minsk Group and other participating States to persuade Armenia to engage constructively in the conflict settlement process and to comply with its international obligations.

It should be recalled once again that the task of the negotiation process, as defined by relevant OSCE decisions and endorsed by four resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993)), is to eliminate, through de-occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, the consequences of the war unleashed by Armenia. Azerbaijan has been participating in this process for almost three decades with that purpose, that is to say, of restoring its territorial integrity through peaceful means. This commitment of Azerbaijan to peace is without prejudice to its rights under the Charter of the United Nations and international law in general and thus should not be taken for granted and further abused.

It is within this context that the Azerbaijani side appeals to the international community to firmly stand behind the values, norms and principles underpinning the civilized international order by condemning Armenia's inflammatory statements and destabilizing actions blatantly violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to urge Armenia to comply with the principles of inter-State relations and fulfil in good faith its obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions of 1993. This is crucially important in order to prevent Armenia from undermining the remaining perspectives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. In this regard, we count on your solidarity and effective support in defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

1277th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1373
FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 AND THE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations, particularly Regulations 7.05 and 8.06(e), as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96) and revised on 23 November 2017 (PC.DEC/1272),

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Taking note of the 2019 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/33/20 of 26 June 2020),

Expressing its gratitude to the External Auditor, the Court of Auditors of Spain, for the work done,

Taking note of the Unqualified Audit Opinion on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019,

1. Accepts the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019;
2. Requests the Secretary General to establish and submit to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance not later than 31 October 2020 a work plan for follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor as reflected in her Report for 2019. Further requests the Secretary General to inform the Permanent Council through the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance about the implementation of this plan on a regular basis, taking into account guidance from the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.



1277th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1277, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1374
EXTENSION OF THE OSCE
INFORMATION SECURITY ENHANCEMENT FUND**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1247 of 6 April 2017 to establish a separate Fund (Information Security Enhancement Fund) and its Decision No. 1324 of 4 April 2019 (PC.DEC/1324) to extend the duration for the financing the proposed information security enhancements in the value of 800,000 euros to be used through 6 October 2020,

Taking note of the document “Information Security Plan May 2020 Report to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance” (PC.ACMF/44/20) of 23 July 2020,

Decides to:

Extend the duration of Information Security Enhancement Fund until 6 July 2021;

Further decides that:

Any funds remaining available in the Fund at the time of completion of the activities will be treated in accordance with Financial Regulation 7.07;

Requests:

The Secretary General as Fund Manager to administer the Fund in accordance with Article VII of the Financial Regulations and to provide reports on the implementation of the Fund quarterly or more frequently if required;

The Secretary General as Fund Manager to ensure that the activities foreseen under this Fund are completed in the most cost-effective and timely manner.