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**Chairmanship: Slovakia****1232nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 13 June 2019

Opened: 9.35 a.m.  
Suspended: 12.30 p.m.  
Opened: 2.35 p.m.  
Closed: 3.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč  
Mr. S. Kantor  
Mr. B. Pavlovič

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE CENTRE IN  
ASHGABAT

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (PC.FR/15/19 OSCE+), Romania-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; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/686/19), Kazakhstan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/654/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/672/19 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Belarus (PC.DEL/665/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/657/19), Norway (PC.DEL/678/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/695/19 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/680/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CHIEF OBSERVER OF THE OSCE  
OBSERVER MISSION AT TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS  
ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Chairperson, Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission (PC.FR/16/19 OSCE+), Romania-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/687/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/696/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/658/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/674/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/675/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/655/19)

Agenda item 3:           DECISION ON THE USE OF THE CASH SURPLUS FOR  
STRENGTHENING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE  
OSCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1331 (PC.DEC/1331) on the use of the cash surplus for strengthening the infrastructure of the OSCE, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 4:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/676/19), Romania-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/689/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/697/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/673/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/659/19), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/656/19), Canada
- (c) *Detention of Mr. R. Udot in the Russian Federation:* Romania-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 Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/690/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/662/19 OSCE+)
- (d) *Release on parole of Mr. O. Titiev in the Russian Federation:* Romania-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 Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/692/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/660/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a)    *Statement by the Chairperson-in-Office on the situation in Moldova:*  
Chairperson
- (b)    *OSCE Informal Ministerial Gathering, to be held in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, on 8 and 9 July 2019:* Chairperson
- (c)    *Agenda and organizational modalities of the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference, to be held in Vienna from 25 to 27 June 2019:* Chairperson
- (d)    *14th GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, held from 6 to 8 June 2019:* Chairperson
- (e)    *International conference on “Effective multilateralism in the fight against torture: Trends in the OSCE region and the way forward”, held in Vienna on 5 June 2019:* Chairperson
- (f)    *Ambassadorial visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, to take place from 6 to 11 October 2019 (CIO.INF/50/19 Restr.):* Kazakhstan  
(PC.DEL/667/19 OSCE+), United States of America, Chairperson

Agenda item 6:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a)    *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/115/19 OSCE+):* Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats
- (b)    *Visit of the Secretary General to Washington, DC, on 11 and 12 June 2019:* Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats  
(SEC.GAL/115/19 OSCE+)
- (c)    *Participation of the Secretary General on 6 June 2019 in the 14th GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, held from 6 to 8 June 2019:* Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats (SEC.GAL/115/19 OSCE+)
- (d)    *Participation of the Secretary General in the ambassadorial retreat being held in Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia, from 13 to 15 June 2019:* Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats (SEC.GAL/115/19 OSCE+)
- (e)    *Participation of the Secretary General on 17 June 2019 in the 2019 Chairmanship OSCE-wide conference on cyber/ICT security entitled “Cyber/ICT security for a safer future: The OSCE’s role in fostering regional cyber stability”, to be held in Bratislava on 17 and 18 June 2019:* Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats  
(SEC.GAL/115/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *So-called parliamentary election in the occupied Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia*: Georgia, Romania-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, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/694/19), Canada, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/663/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/677/19), Poland (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/661/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/671/19)
- (b) *Early presidential election in Kazakhstan, held on 9 June 2019*: Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/664/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/691/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/663/19), Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/679/19 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/666/19 OSCE+), Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States of America (PC.DEL/670/19)
- (c) *Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace*: France (PC.DEL/668/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/669/19)
- (d) *Early parliamentary election in Greece, to be held on 7 July 2019*: Greece

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 20 June 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1331  
13 June 2019

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**1232nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1232, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1331  
USE OF THE CASH SURPLUS FOR STRENGTHENING THE  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE OSCE**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Taking into account the urgency to fund investments aimed at improving the efficiency of the Organization and addressing essential infrastructural investments,

Recalling the initial 2019 Unified Budget Proposal of 28 September 2018, distributed under PC.ACMF/80/18, with particular regard to the proposals referring to the investments in information and communication technology (ICT) and office infrastructure and the results of the budget discussions on this issue,

Decides that:

414,000 euros from the 2017 cash surplus should be authorized to fund the infrastructure investments in the framework of the Fund of the Secretariat, as outlined in the annex, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to future use of the cash surplus.

## ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENTS

For the purpose of ensuring funding for various capital investment needs, the essential infrastructural investments include funding for the following items:

			<b>EUR</b>
OSG/Conference and Language Services Section	Meeting room equipment	Equipment costs	39,500
DMF/Information and Communication Technology Section	ICT-related capital expenditures	Equipment costs	212,900
DMF/Mission Support Services Section	Office infrastructure capital expenditures	Equipment costs	40,000
DMF/Mission Support Services Section	Asset tracking and barcoding solution	Equipment costs	30,400
DHR/Talent Management	Online recruitment solution	Equipment costs	91,200
<b>Total</b>			<b>414,000</b>

### Meeting room equipment

The Burghauptmannschaft (landlord) intends to renovate the Ratsaal in the Hofburg in 2019. Most of the cost associated with the Ratsaal renovation is expected to be met by the Burghauptmannschaft. It will, however, be necessary for the OSCE to acquire essential meeting room equipment that is not under the responsibility of the landlord, including different multimedia equipment. The meeting equipment for the Ratsaal, which includes media control equipment and projectors/screens, is necessary to ensure that the Ratsaal has a basic level of minimum functionality that is comparable to other meeting rooms in the OSCE premises and meets current minimum technical standards. If this additional funding is not made available, the functionality of the Ratsaal as a meeting room will be critically compromised. Existing equipment cannot be used in the new Ratsaal because it is over ten years old and therefore obsolete, and uses outdated analogue VGA technology.

### ICT-related capital expenditures

The ICT infrastructure assets represent part of the core Organization-wide IT network and systems infrastructure, serving not only the Secretariat, but all other executive structures' network and systems connectivity needs (including the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)). It covers the periodical replacement of hardware devices such as network switches, routers, firewalls, IP phones, servers, storage, etc. It also includes the capital expenditure for the regular replacement of the end-user devices and equipment that reach their end-of-life as well as different ICT accessories necessary for maintaining regular ICT operations (i.e. consumable and spare parts).

## **Office infrastructure capital expenditures**

The Secretariat, together with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media moved from its old premises to the current ones located at Wallnerstrasse 6/6a in 2007. The building is offered at no rental cost by the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna. Palais Palfy is classified as a protected historical monument and the OSCE bears all operating costs, including utilities, maintenance and security. To date, capital investments of an ongoing nature have been postponed, with most urgent repairs addressed within operational budgets. However, this is no longer sustainable. The building has not had major investments since the renovation in 2007 and the warranties have expired on a number of the infrastructure items. Additionally the Mission Support Service budget has been reduced significantly over the years and with continued pressure on the operating budget, these essential investments cannot be accommodated.

## **Online recruitment solution**

Continued failure to modernize the recruitment technology has a significant impact on efficiency and the ability to provide timely recruitment and related reporting to all stakeholders. Modern tools are a key requirement for responsive service delivery and an aid to attracting the quality of talent the Organization needs to be successful. The lack of a modern system has become particularly apparent since the establishment of the SMM. A modernized OSCE recruitment platform would not only vastly improve the efficiency and recruitment in all executive structures, but would also enhance the OSCE employer brand.

## **Asset tracking and barcoding solution**

For the purpose of tangible assets verification and tracking (barcode scanning), the OSCE is using a custom-made system (the “barcoding portal”) which was developed in 2013 based on Microsoft mobile technology. Microsoft abandoned this technology and is no longer providing technical support. The upgrade to the overall Microsoft infrastructure (move to Windows 10) that is planned to start in 2019 will mark the end-of-life of the barcoding portal as the software will not be compatible with the new ICT infrastructure. Against this background, the OSCE has the option to either upgrade the existing system to make it compatible with the new ICT infrastructure, or to acquire a brand new system. Should funding not be granted for this acquisition, the OSCE would not be able to perform the yearly physical verification of tangible assets Organization-wide (amounting to more than 65,000 assets with an estimated purchase value of 75.1 million euros) in a reasonable amount of time as the process would have to be performed manually. The result would be a significant gap in asset control and assurance.

## **Budget overview**

The total budget of 414,000 euros consists of only equipment costs.

PC.DEC/1331  
13 June 2019  
Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In joining consensus on the use of the cash surplus for strengthening the infrastructure of the OSCE, the United States makes no commitment to any increases in US contributions in future years due to the use of previous years' cash surpluses in this instance.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”