
Chairmanship: Poland**1371st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 28 April 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 2), France-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), United Kingdom (Annex 5), Albania (Annex 6), Switzerland (PC.DEL/614/22 OSCE+), Turkey (Annex 7), Canada (Annex 8), Norway (Annex 9), Georgia (Annex 10), Iceland (Annex 11), Latvia (Annex 12), Belarus, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/21/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova (PC.FR/6/22 OSCE+), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey; 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, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/628/22), United States of America (PC.DEL/608/22), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/609/22 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/610/22 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/615/22 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/633/22 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/617/22), Canada (PC.DEL/612/22/Corr.1 OSCE+), Ukraine, Moldova (Annex 13)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a Western alliance of OSCE participating States*: Russian Federation (Annex 14), France-European Union, Lithuania, Germany, Chairperson
- (b) *Ongoing gross violations of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population in some OSCE participating States*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/622/22) (PC.DEL/623/22), France-European Union, Czech Republic, Chairperson
- (c) *Conviction of Mr. O. Kavala*: France (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) (Annex 15), Switzerland (PC.DEL/619/22 OSCE+), Iceland (Annex 16), Turkey (Annex 17)

Point of order: Lithuania

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Preparation of a drawdown plan for the closure of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*: Chairperson, Secretary General, France-European Union, Russian Federation (Annex 18), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/626/22)
- (b) *International donors' conference for Ukraine, to be held in Warsaw and via video teleconference on 5 May 2022*: Chairperson
- (c) *Visit of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, to India from 25 to 27 April 2022*: Chairperson
- (d) *Telephone conversation between the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. A. J. Blinken, on 25 April 2022*: Chairperson
- (e) *Joint press release by the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, and the OSCE Secretary General, Ms. H. M. Schmid, calling for the release of national*

members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine detained in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, issued on 24 April 2022:
Chairperson

- (f) *Expression of concern by the Polish OSCE Chairmanship with regard to statements by the Russian Federation on the alleged situation of the Russian-speaking population in Moldova, issued on 22 April 2022:*
Chairperson
- (g) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, H.E. Ms. A. Linde, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, H.E. Mr. B. Osmani, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. D. Kuleba, held in Rzeszów, Poland, on 8 April 2022:*
Chairperson
- (h) *Meetings of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions; the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims; and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, with representatives of the Council of Europe, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, held in Strasbourg on 11 and 12 April 2022:* Chairperson
- (i) *Joint statement by the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions; the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims; the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism; and the Council of Europe's Special Representative on Antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, entitled "Russia must stop aggression and destruction of religious sites and places of worship", issued on 13 April 2022:* Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/50/22 OSCE+):* Secretary General
- (b) *Preparation of a drawdown plan for the closure of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/52/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 May 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Point 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we cannot agree with the first agenda item for today's meeting of the Permanent Council proposed by the Chairmanship. We continue to view this approach as a deliberate attempt to "Ukrainianize" the work of the OSCE's main decision-making body and to subordinate all current activities of the Organization to this logic.

We demand strict compliance with the collectively agreed Rules of Procedure defining the responsibilities of the Chairmanship in preparing the agenda of meetings of the Permanent Council (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3). Moreover, we once again recall the need to observe the guidelines for the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office approved by the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision (paragraph 2). The current actions by the Chairmanship are clearly inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and fail to take into account the whole spectrum of their opinions.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

This week, relevant Ukrainian agencies managed to reunite 12-year-old Kira with her grandfather in Kyiv.

She was deported by Russia to occupied Donetsk after her father, a water polo champion of Ukraine and former captain of Ukraine's national team, had been killed in Mariupol by Russian soldiers.

At the same time, particular attention should be paid to the harrowing story of the forcible deportation to Russia of tens of thousands of Ukrainians from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. The return of these people to their home country will be an arduous struggle for our citizens.

Bringing the deported people back will also require the active and committed involvement of international institutions.

I call upon the OSCE structures to closely monitor the forcible deportation, which is a war crime, in order to establish and carry out the right practical steps to address this challenge.

As a part of its traditional centuries-old policy of expelling whole nations from their homelands, Russia has set up so-called filtration camps, particularly near Mariupol.

In fact, they are nothing but concentration camps like those of the Nazis and the Soviets in the past, built in order to break people's will or to exterminate them.

Of particular concern is the fact that Russians deport children, in an effort to make them forget where their home is and where they come from.

Russia is also aiming to destroy Ukrainian identity. In all occupied territories, Russia is banning the use of the Ukrainian language and Ukrainian-language books, introducing education in the Russian language, and imposing the Russian system of ideological dogma.

Russia's policy towards Ukraine continues to be about extermination, deportation and cultural erasure. Just like decades ago. Just like centuries ago.

Since 2014, the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula has become another testing ground for this policy.

Last week, the sentence against Mustafa Dzhemilev, the leader of the Crimean Tatar people, reminded us that Russia is continuing to persecute Crimean Tatars, expelling them or forcing them to flee the occupied Crimean peninsula.

The Kremlin is repeating the worst criminal policies of the Soviet regime, which in 1944 deported hundreds of thousands of Crimean Tatars, including the 7-month-old Mustafa Dzhemilev and his family, from their native land of Crimea.

Today, history is repeating itself. Since the beginning of the temporary occupation of Crimea, more than 64,000 Ukrainian citizens have been forced to leave the Crimean peninsula.

Dear colleagues,

I wish to recall another tragic story, that of 3-month-old Kira who was killed together with her mother and grandmother in Odesa on Holy Saturday.

Just imagine. In a second, a Russian missile killed members of three generations of a family.

On that very day, seven missiles hit Odesa.

As the all-out war of aggression enters its third month, Russia continues to terrorize Ukrainians with constant missile attacks.

For instance, air raid sirens in Kyiv have sounded more than three hundred times, and their total duration has exceeded five hundred hours – about 40 per cent of the time of all the days of the war put together.

Russia is also resorting to nuclear terrorism. On the 36th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy, Russia fired two missiles over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.

The low-flying missiles put the safety of the plant and the world at risk.

At the same time, Kharkiv and its region remain under constant artillery fire. Luhansk and Donetsk regions are also facing intensive attacks.

Russia is continuing to destroy Ukraine's critical infrastructure. On 25 April alone, five railway stations in the central and western regions of Ukraine were hit in the course of one hour.

Yesterday, a railway bridge in the Odesa region was hit for a second time.

Indiscriminate attacks continue to claim the lives of peaceful civilians, including children.

According to the Prosecutor General's office, 215 children have been confirmed killed so far and more than 390 injured. The actual figures, however, could be much higher, as new mass graves and burial places are being found.

While committing crimes and killings, the Russian invaders are continuing preparations to hold so-called "referendums" in the temporarily occupied areas of southern Ukraine.

Russia is actually establishing the same scenario as it carried out in 2014 in Crimea and the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine.

Nevertheless, Ukrainians continue to put up staunch resistance to the administrations of Russian occupation. Yesterday, on 27 April, Ukrainians took to the streets of Kherson to protest against the plans to hold a sham referendum.

After peaceful protesters were attacked and a number of them injured, there is no doubt that Moscow has started preparing a programme of blatant falsification in order to set up so-called "people's republics" in southern Ukraine.

Any results of this staged "plebiscite" will be null and void. At the same time, these plans prove once again that the aim of Putin is to divide Ukrainians and break up Ukraine.

Earlier this week, in an interview, one of Vladimir Putin's closest allies, Nikolai Patrushev, confirmed these plans by threatening Ukraine with partition.

At the same time, statements by the Russian military command declaring its intention to seize the entire southern part of Ukraine and create a land corridor to the Transnistrian region of Moldova coincided with the aggravation of the security situation there.

We call upon the Russian side to stop staging provocations aimed at stirring up instability in the Moldovan region of Transdnistria.

We also wish to note that last week Russia's military command said that the rights of Russian-speakers were allegedly being violated there.

As we have seen on numerous occasions, Russia repeatedly uses the Russian language as a weapon against its neighbours, in order to justify its territorial claims and neo-imperialistic ambitions.

In view of this, we count on a proper reaction from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The time for quiet diplomacy is over.

The only territory where we and the OSCE should be actively concerned about the rights of Russian-speakers is Russia itself, where there is no place for human rights and no freedom of choice.

Apart from language, Russia has also revealed another of its weapons – natural gas and oil supplies – by cutting gas deliveries to a number of European countries. This is something we have known and experienced for a long time. However, by doing so, Russia has also shown how unreliable it is as a supplier of energy.

Russia is also unreliable as an OSCE participating State, as it uses the Organization exclusively as a platform for the dissemination of its propaganda.

Furthermore, Russia has challenged and humiliated the OSCE by launching attacks against local staff of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM).

We are grateful to the OSCE Chairmanship and Secretary General for their joint statement in this regard. It was a timely and appropriate step.

After all, this is about people, about their lives and about their health.

SMM staff are subjected to physical and psychological pressure by Russian invaders in order to force them into self-incriminating confessions.

Russia is trying to vilify the SMM in an attempt to disguise the destructive role it played in the Mission's activities and its blocking of a peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict in the course of the last eight years.

Russia must stop these attacks and be held accountable for them, if necessary with a reconsideration of Moscow's role and position in the OSCE.

Distinguished colleagues,

Mariupol remains a bleeding wound of Ukraine.

More than six hundred injured Ukrainian defenders and over a thousand local civilians are trapped in the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol.

The plant is almost destroyed. During the night of 26 April alone, 35 powerful bombs were dropped over Azovstal, which remains a shelter for many Mariupol residents.

So, I want to repeat a question I asked at the last Permanent Council meeting. Why is the Russian military continuing to attack Azovstal despite a clear order of their President to stop shelling?

Does it mean that the Russian president has lost control over his own army? Or did Putin just want to cheat us, as he usually does, in order to distract our attention?

With the same kind of manipulation as the Russians show with the announcement of so-called humanitarian corridors?

Unfortunately, we know the value of the Russians' word. They just do not keep it.

We all remember Ilovaisk very well, when Russia promised a green corridor for Ukraine's defenders and simply executed them by shooting at evacuation convoys.

Mariupol is also a manifestation of the suffering and pain of occupied Ukraine.

This week, we also found out that two talented little girls, Yelizaveta and Sonya, were killed in Mariupol.

They were actresses at the Mariupol theatre, where they both played the role of Lucy in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the dramatization of a fantasy novel for children by C. S. Lewis.

It is symbolic that the idea of this novel was conceived shortly after the start of the Second World War when children were forced to flee London because of Nazi air raids.

It is appalling that today Putin wants to bring back ghosts of the past by trying to reshape Europe and the world in his own image.

However, on the basis of lessons drawn from the Second World War, we know how this pure evil can be stopped. This includes tightening of sanctions, improving Ukraine's defence capabilities, and the de-Putinization of world politics.

And thanks to our common efforts, solidarity and unity, we believe that Mariupol may become a symbol of resistance undertaken by the free world.

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

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

For over two months, Russia has been attacking a sovereign, democratic and peaceful neighbouring State, Ukraine. Russia's aggression has triggered the greatest wave of people fleeing from brutal aggression in Europe since the Second World War. At least 4,000 civilians have been killed, including many children. Entire cities like Mariupol have been levelled to ashes by the Russian armed forces, while Russia has obstructed any attempts to reach an agreement to ensure safe passage for civilians, and there are reports about several mass graves on the outskirts of the city. Russia did not even heed the United Nations Secretary-General's appeal for a four-day humanitarian ceasefire during the Orthodox Easter holy week. Massacres have been committed in Bucha, Borodianka, Irpin, Hostomel and other places, and every day there are reports of civilians and civilian infrastructure apparently being deliberately targeted by Russia's indiscriminate attacks, lately in Odesa. Russian attempts to destroy Ukraine's railway infrastructure, for example in Lviv, Zhytomyr, Rivne, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Vinnytsia regions, are also causing civilian casualties and hindering movement to safe locations. We are horrified by the manifold personal testimonies and reports from areas under Russian occupation of forced deportations to Russia, also to so-called "filtration camps", and the systematic use of violence, including sexual violence, rape, and torture perpetrated by the Russian armed forces against the civilian population, many of which would constitute war crimes. Those responsible will be held to account.

More than 5.2 million people have fled abroad in order to escape Russia's war of aggression while millions are internally displaced. This displacement entails many safety risks, including a heightened risk, particularly for women and girls, of exposure to sexual violence and human trafficking. The situation of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied and separated children, persons in institutional care, the elderly and persons with disabilities, requires particular attention. The European Union and its Member States will continue to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in every way possible. We are therefore providing shelter as well as humanitarian, medical and financial aid to those fleeing Russia's violence, as well as granting them access to education and the labour market. The European Union Member States, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other

relevant bodies, will also ensure that a prompt and concrete response to the needs of children and their families is provided for, with special attention to unaccompanied children.

Moreover, the European Union strongly condemns the detention of national Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) Mission members by Russian-backed armed formations in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. This is completely unacceptable and we join the Polish Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Rau, and OSCE Secretary General Schmid in calling for their immediate release. SMM national Mission members remain under functional legal protection despite the fact that the SMM mandate has not been extended. We also condemn the deplorable acts of intimidation, harassment, and hostile public rhetoric against the SMM and the Mission staff. This has to stop immediately. The SMM has been carrying out invaluable work in gathering objective information and reporting impartially as well as facilitating dialogue between the sides and negotiating local ceasefires.

We also reiterate our strong condemnation of Russia's attempts to set up illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Kherson, Mariupol and in other towns in Ukraine. Any attempts by Russia to conduct so-called "referenda" at the barrel of a gun in order to proclaim new "people's republics" are illegal and futile and we will not recognize them. We call on Russia to immediately release all democratically elected Ukrainian officials who remain in Russian detention.

Amid the appalling human tragedy, President Putin's war also aims to undermine Ukraine's identity, distinct history and culture, posing a threat to its cultural heritage. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has confirmed that at least 53 historical sites, religious buildings, and museums have so far been damaged during Russia's military aggression. Historic town centres, including in Chernihiv and Kharkiv, have been hit by Russian air strikes, the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial in Kyiv and the Holocaust Memorial centre in Drobitsky have been attacked, as has the Historical and Local History Museum of Ivankiv, destroying precious works by the 20th-century folk artist Maria Prymachenko. Russia's aggression is also endangering UNESCO cultural heritage sites and we are particularly worried about the risk of looting and illicit trafficking of Ukrainian cultural property as well as about the potential loss of archives and libraries. We recall that Russia is bound by the 1954 Hague Convention to protect cultural property during armed conflict, and intentionally directing attacks against a protected cultural heritage site is a war crime. We demand that Russia immediately stops its attacks on cultural heritage sites.

Furthermore, the European Union categorically denounces Russia's disinformation campaign, including the unsubstantiated claims and false allegations that Ukraine has been preparing to use chemical weapons or that it has been developing biological weapons. Ukraine is in full compliance with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Russia, in contrast, has repeatedly used chemical weapons in recent years in violation of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The European Union reminds Russia of the utmost importance of respecting its obligations under the relevant international treaties.

Respect for human life and dignity forms the basis of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We call on Russia to grant these rights and freedoms to its own citizens. The European Union deplores the decision of the Russian Ministry of Justice to revoke the registration of 15 widely recognized organizations, among them a large number of

prominent non-governmental organizations and foundations as well as international advocacy groups. This cynical move to silence public scrutiny and any opposing views further reinforces Russia's isolation. In addition, we deplore the detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza, a human rights activist, journalist, and politician, who is now facing a trial based purely on politically motivated charges. We also condemn the sentencing of the Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev, who has been convicted on the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula on dubious charges.

The European Union condemns Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. Russia must also urgently provide safe pathways, both for civilians to evacuate to other parts of Ukraine, as well as for those delivering humanitarian assistance. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. The European Union will continue to firmly support Ukraine and will advance, as a matter of urgency, work on further sanctions against Russia and Belarus. We will continue to stand in full solidarity with and actively support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people until they prevail.

I kindly ask that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

As we enter the third month of Russia's unprovoked war of aggression, Ukraine stands as strong, united, and resolute as ever. The people of Ukraine are continuing to repulse Russia's barbaric campaign of intimidation and subjugation. Over the past two months, Ukraine's courageous defenders have repelled Russia's vicious attacks on Kyiv and Kharkiv and sent Russia's forces scrambling back over the border. Russia is failing, and Ukraine is succeeding. But the human and humanitarian costs of Russia's assault have been enormous: Bucha, Borodyanka, Mariupol, and Irpin are – tragically – only the first of what are likely to be many municipalities that will one day bear monuments honouring the victims of Russia's atrocities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The courage and solidarity of the people of Ukraine in resisting Russia's monstrous aggression continue to inspire the world. In the face of Ukraine's determined resistance, Putin's forces are refocusing their brutal campaign on Ukraine's south and east. In its attempt to subjugate these parts of Ukraine's territory, the Kremlin is working from a well-worn playbook that steals from history's darkest chapters.

We have information that Russia's planning for its further invasion of Ukraine includes a forced capitulation of Ukraine's democratically elected government, including dissolving all local municipal governments in Ukraine. New governance structures were to be set up in "liberated" territories under Russian control.

Plans for a new government and new constitution are being developed by Russian officials and so-called "separatists". This planning includes a moratorium disallowing legitimate Ukrainian leaders and those supporting Ukraine's legitimate government from any leadership positions.

This is straight out of Russia's playbook, which has repeatedly exploited phony "electoral" processes with attempts to impose so-called "new realities," including holding sham referenda in an attempt to lend a semblance of legitimacy to subjugation. We saw this repeatedly in 2014, as the Kremlin orchestrated so-called referenda in the Ukrainian regions

of Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk – each time with faked high percentages of public support. The reality is that Russia installed puppet regimes dependent on Russian bribes, and orchestrated nebulous “people’s councils” to create phony constitutions – all an attempt to lend an air of legitimacy to the sham. Russia further subjected the local population to intense disinformation portraying the legitimate Ukrainian Government as a Western-inspired coup. All fake. Yet the danger over time has become clear and is a stark warning for Russia’s intended next steps in any additional Ukrainian territory it forcibly seizes.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kremlin may now be preparing to stage sham referenda in Ukraine’s south and east – in the areas it has illegally seized since 24 February – again in a futile attempt to legitimize its illegal invasion and assert control over these areas – control resulting from Russia’s brutal use of force against Ukraine. On Tuesday, Russian forces claimed they had “liberated” the Kherson region of southern Ukraine, and they have now decreed that they will start using the Russian rouble. Our Ukrainian colleagues have been warning that Russia may soon stage a sham referendum in Kherson, supposedly asking residents if they approved of the “independence” of an entity called “the Kherson People’s Republic.” Of course, no such entity exists outside of the Kremlin’s web of lies. And the international community must make clear that any such referendum will never be recognized as legitimate, just as the Ukrainian people have already made clear they will never support this Russian invasion.

Unfortunately, however, such lies have real consequences. These falsified, illegitimate referenda will undoubtedly be accompanied by a wave of abuses against those who seek to oppose or undermine Moscow’s plans.

We should expect Russia to intensify its ongoing forced transfers of local populations from areas of Ukraine’s south and east to Russia or Russian-controlled parts of the Donbas via so-called “filtration camps.” We see credible reporting that Russia’s forces are rounding up the local civilian populations in these areas, detaining them in these camps, and brutally interrogating them for any supposed links to the legitimate Ukrainian Government or to independent media outlets. There are alarming reports that those suspected of having such connections are being beaten or tortured before being transferred to the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic,” where they are reportedly disappeared or murdered. Reporting indicates that many civilians in these filtration camps who “pass” the interrogation are transferred to Russia or Russian-controlled Donbas, including via Belarus. Our information indicates Russia is abducting, torturing, and/or murdering locally elected leaders, journalists, and civil society activists, as well as religious leaders.

The Mariupol mayor’s office reports that four filtration camps are operating in the city. The accounts of these camps are harrowing. An escapee from Mariupol described the experience as follows: “The filtration camps are like ghettos,” she said. “Russians divide people into groups. Those who were suspected of having connections with the Ukrainian army, territorial defence, journalists, workers from the government – it’s very dangerous for them. They take those people to prisons to Donetsk, torture them.”

Colleagues,

What these reports describe brings back horrific memories of a bygone era. Invading a neighbouring country, removing its legitimately elected government, herding its population into “filtration” camps, and holding sham referenda in a transparent attempt to cover its aggression with a false veneer of legitimacy is a wholly barbaric enterprise.

To stop this, we must all act with a greater sense of urgency. These statements of concern in this Council are necessary but hardly sufficient. The United States, for its part, is committed to pushing as hard as we can as quickly as we can to get Ukraine the support it needs to defend against this brutal war of aggression. As Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin told President Zelensky in Kyiv last Sunday, the United States intends to obligate more than 322 million US dollars in foreign military financing for Ukraine. This brings the total US security assistance to Ukraine since the start of Russia’s renewed invasion on 24 February to roughly 3.8 billion US dollars, or about 60 million US dollars per day.

Secretary Austin also announced in Kyiv that the Department of Defense will expand military training for Ukraine’s service members on certain weapons systems being provided, and he highlighted US efforts to accelerate the delivery of these weapons, which are now arriving within days of announcement. The United States will continue to co-ordinate the shipment of additional heavy weaponry, ammunition, and spare parts from other countries – including many of those seated around this table – to Ukraine. We are returning American diplomats to Ukraine as we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainian Government and people, and we will work with our Congress as we plan to resume full operations at our embassy in Kyiv as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairperson,

The famous Russian dissident Alexandr Solzhenitsyn once said, “Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience, but the conscience of the whole of humanity.” It is the duty of all of us here today to do everything in our power to ensure that justice prevails, that tyranny is defeated, and that the conscience of humanity is preserved.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Earlier this week the esteemed Norwegian Ambassador hosted an important Human Dimension Committee meeting on children and armed conflict. We heard from varied speakers and delegations about the appalling suffering of Ukraine's children as a result of President Putin's war of choice. This is what I would like to focus on today.

Since we last met, we have been horrified by the ongoing atrocities perpetuated by Russia on Ukrainian soil, including recent attacks on Odesa resulting in civilian casualties. This includes the reported death of a three-month-old baby, killed by a missile attack in Odesa. Sadly this is just one example among far too many, including the horrors seen in Irpin and Bucha.

The ongoing impact of Russia's illegal and unprovoked war on Ukraine's 7.5 million children – on their health, education and family life – is harrowing. On 24 March, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that in one month of war, 4.3 million children had been displaced; this represents more than half of the estimated child population of Ukraine. In that month, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), at least 78 children were killed and 105 injured. The true toll was likely far higher. On 22 April, Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office stated that 208 children had been killed and 386 children injured since the war began. We are grateful to Prosecutor General Venediktova for her efforts to raise the profile of how children have been affected by the war.

Russia continues to launch its indiscriminate attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, children's homes, schools, hospitals, and the water systems and power plants they rely on. The places where children and civilians shelter from Russia's onslaught of violence continue to be damaged and destroyed.

Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science has reported that nearly 1,500 education institutions have suffered bombing and shelling, and 102 of them have been destroyed completely. According to Save the Children, this amounts to an average of 22 schools a day coming under attack in Ukraine since the start of the war, with military operations disrupting the education of 5.5 million children remaining in the country. In areas temporarily under the control of Russian armed forces there are worrying reports of Russian troops interfering in

the education of Ukrainian children – putting pressure on teachers to teach in Russian and according to the Russian curriculum.

Russia's actions have harmed families' livelihoods and economic opportunities, leaving many parents without sufficient income to meet their basic needs and unable to provide adequate support for their children. As we raised last week, many Ukrainians – including children – have been forcibly deported against their will to Russia. The social and psychological trauma experienced by children will be felt for years to come.

The United Kingdom is proud to be playing a leading role in the humanitarian effort in Ukraine, delivering vital supplies and life-saving medical aid to those most in need, including a focus on children. The total offer of humanitarian and economic support to the current Ukraine crisis is around 400 million pounds. We are matching pound for pound the public's first 25 million pounds for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. And the Prime Minister announced earlier in the week that we are providing new ambulances, fire engines and funding for health experts and life-saving medical supplies.

Mr. Chairperson, the facts are clear: President Putin's war is a war that children are paying the price for. The international community must come together and act together to hold Russia to account for its crimes. The Russian Government must be held responsible for its actions and end this suffering. It must end its attacks on civilians in all their forms, pull back their troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and stop this war. The United Kingdom remains unwavering in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders. We will not rest until President Putin's aggression fails in Ukraine. We stand with Ukraine.

Thank you. I kindly request that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.



1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine continues to cause immense suffering, daily loss of civilian lives, destruction of civilian infrastructure, mass forced deportations, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and a humanitarian and economic crisis that is being felt across the globe.

The report of the experts of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism cited a clear pattern of violations of international humanitarian law and the most basic human rights by Russian forces. Human Rights Watch has noted that the evidence indicates that Russian forces occupying Bucha showed contempt and disregard for civilian life and the most fundamental principles of the laws of war.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Russian forces have indiscriminately shelled and bombed populated areas, killing civilians and wrecking hospitals, schools, and other civilian infrastructure – actions that may amount to war crimes. According to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the ICC has reasonable grounds to believe crimes within its jurisdiction are being committed.

Today, I will dwell on the particular suffering, but also heroism, of women and girls in Ukraine. As the days go by, we see new gruesome pictures and we hear new chilling testimonies of women and girls raped by the Russian aggressors. A few days ago, the Executive Director of UN Women told the United Nations Security Council that they “were increasingly hearing of rape and sexual violence”.

The evidence uncovered in Bucha, this landscape of horror, shows that Russian soldiers did not only kill recklessly and sadistically in revenge for their defeat. A woman was held as a sex slave, in a cellar, before being executed in cold blood. And 25 teenage girls were kept in a basement in Bucha and raped; nine of them are now pregnant. A group of Ukrainian women prisoners of war had their heads shaved in Russian captivity, where they were also stripped naked.

On another front, Russia's shelling in Odesa on the eve of Orthodox Easter killed three generations of the same family: a grandmother, a mother, and her infant daughter. The

painful stories go on and on. And by committing such despicable crimes and systematically denying them, the Russian perpetrators kill twice.

We pay tribute to thousands of brave Ukrainian women and girls who are fighting and striving for peace in their land and to those who have spoken up and are supporting each other in the face of these horrors.

Mr. Chairperson,

In Russia, on the other hand, we have seen public figures waging a campaign of “I am not ashamed” of the war, “Мне не стыдно”. Firstly, all those who support these crimes, silently or publicly, really should feel ashamed. Secondly, it is revealing that they feel the need to justify these acts with this slogan, suggesting that deep down they do actually know that the acts are shameful.

And thirdly, those responsible for all these crimes should be subjected to personal accountability. The message should be one and clear: no one who has promoted, has used, or has planned the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war will escape justice.

In the Western Balkans, which in the not-so-distant past has been the stage of major conflicts and suffering, we have witnessed sexual violence being used as a tactic of war, particularly against women and girls. In the late 1990s, sexual violence was widely used in the conflict in Kosovo as a despicable weapon of war and as an instrument to humiliate. It has left a profound imprint on survivors and society alike. Even two decades later, survivors still struggle for justice and healing.

But we will be there to sustain the process of accountability in relation to Ukraine, until the end. No matter how long it will take. Albania has joined relevant international processes and supports all efforts to collect and preserve evidence, and to investigate and punish these despicable crimes. Only yesterday, Albania, together with France and in co-operation with Ukraine, co-organized a United Nations Security Council Arrria-formula meeting on “Ensuring accountability for atrocities committed in Ukraine”. The event was co-sponsored by around forty United Nations Member States.

It is reassuring that Russia’s actions have triggered a remarkable alignment of international actors supporting accountability. It is our duty to rise up and play our part when innocent civilians are killed, when women are used as a weapon of war, and when girls and boys are sexually abused.

Accountability is about protecting the foundations of humanity, the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, the OSCE principles and commitments, and our common values and shared responsibility.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1371
28 April 2022
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

1371st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the biggest crises in Europe since the end of the Second World War unfortunately continues, despite all diplomatic efforts to stop this war.

The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine causes death and devastation across the country with wide-ranging influences over the entire globe.

We regret that even the call of the United Nations Secretary-General for a humanitarian pause during the Easter period was unheard.

In Ukraine, humanitarian needs are dire. People do not have food, water or medicine. Millions of people need urgent humanitarian assistance.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around a quarter of the entire population have been displaced either within Ukraine or abroad. 90 per cent of those displaced are children and women.

Concerted efforts should be ensured to prevent abuse and violations of the rights of these refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

And we should not forget: These figures are not mere statistics. They reflect the pain of real people -especially of children. We feel and share the pain of Ukraine.

The evacuation of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid are priority. Mariupol is the most urgent case.

In addition, we are concerned about reports regarding the illegal detention of national members of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. They must be released immediately. Such actions must stop.

In Ukraine, there is an urgent need for a permanent ceasefire as well as a political solution to the ongoing humanitarian tragedy. The alternative to a negotiated solution is a

protracted war, which will increasingly become more difficult to contain, and which will cause more human lives and destruction.

With this understanding, Turkey has been actively engaging to facilitate diplomatic talks and to alleviate the tragic humanitarian consequences of this war.

President Erdoğan, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu and Defence Minister Akar are in close contact with their Ukrainian and Russian counterparts.

Our expectation is the meaningful momentum of the Istanbul meeting to be sustained. This would benefit all.

Turkey stands ready to provide any help within its means and to offer any support, including mediation. Our objective has always been to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in our region.

As a final note, before travelling to Moscow and Kiev, the United Nations Secretary-General paid a visit to Turkey and had a meeting with President Erdoğan on 25 April. The facilitation of the work of the United Nations agencies in the humanitarian field in Ukraine is vital under the current circumstances.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me also reiterate that Turkey strongly supports the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

I kindly ask, Mr. Chairperson, that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 8

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1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We see that as this war continues, the conclusion of the Moscow Mechanism report, which stated that Russia is the aggressor and is therefore responsible, directly or indirectly, for all human suffering in Ukraine, continues to ring true.

Canada is deeply concerned over the grave humanitarian crisis unfolding as a result of the illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war waged by Russia against Ukraine. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates 13 million people are displaced; and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports thousands of civilian casualties in premediated, indiscriminate attacks. There are reports of Russian trucks bringing bodies to mass graves in Mariupol. Cities and villages in eastern Ukraine continue to endure attacks. We are deeply alarmed by Russia's use of anti-personnel landmines in the territory of Ukraine, as per a recent Human Rights Watch report. We vehemently condemn the use of such indiscriminate weapons, and call on Russia to immediately cease their use.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is waging a brutal, devastating war on the ground in Ukraine at a great cost to the Ukrainian and to the Russian peoples. Russia's narrative that it is acting in the interests of Russian-speaking people does not hold up. We know that ethnic Russians and Russian speakers in Ukraine did not welcome the Russian troops with open arms – on the contrary, they have fiercely protested against and resisted them. We know that the economic sanctions provoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine will come at a great cost to the people of Russia. We know that civil and political rights and freedoms are under attack in Russia. We know that Putin's regime has shut down independent media, forced closure of human rights organizations, and arrested thousands of peaceful Russian citizens protesting Putin's war. We can see that Putin's government is forging Russia's future as a place without freedoms of thought, opinion, or peaceful assembly. As we watch Russia take further steps to restrict civil and political freedoms in Russia, making access and dissemination of any information diverging from the official line about the war difficult and dangerous, it is becoming increasingly clear that Putin is undoing years of progress in Russia and rebuilding a totalitarian State.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russian narratives about the war are not plausible and are not resonating in the world – because the world can see that Russia, in its isolation, is waging an illegal and unjustified war. Its Blitzkrieg offensive and attempted capture of Kyiv failed as they met fierce resistance, having miscalculated Ukrainians’ resolve to defend their country. And the progress of Russia’s renewed offensive in the east has been very slow despite their brutal and illegal tactics in breach of international humanitarian law.

Russia is also losing their propaganda war. For example, we know that the number of casualties from the sinking of the flagship *Moskva* warship by Ukrainian forces is much, much higher than what Russia has been willing to admit officially: “A cynical and blatant lie” is how one of the parents of a *Moskva* sailor described Russian authorities’ handling of the event.

Russia is not succeeding with its ridiculous idea that Ukraine and Russia are the same. They are not. Ukraine is not Russia. Ukraine has been charting its own path of development different from the autocratic model of government towards a vision based on respect for human rights, accountability, and democracy. And let us be clear: Ukraine has every right to do this. Putin does not get to define Ukraine. He does not get to define its statehood. He does not get to define its history. And he does not get to define its future.

Mr. Chairperson,

Tyranny must and will not prevail. Together with Ukraine’s many supporters, Canada will stay the course in supporting Ukraine – not only by countering false narratives advanced by the Russian authorities and by strengthening Ukraine’s capabilities to repel Russian aggression, but also by ensuring Russia is brought to justice and accountability for this unprovoked war. To support the work of the International Criminal Court, Canada’s Department of Justice War Crimes Program, in co-ordination with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has launched a national structural investigation into the allegation of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine, to ensure that information and evidence gathered from Ukrainians entering Canada is properly documented and secured for future criminal investigations. Russia will have to own up to and must be held accountable for its violations of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians.

Russia will have to live with the shame and consequences of its actions. Russia will have to live with how it failed to uphold its responsibilities as a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. It will have to live with how it has contravened its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Russia will have to live with how it has violated and shown disregard for our shared OSCE commitments, including the Principles of the Inviolability of Frontiers and the Territorial Integrity of States, which it pushed to be part of the Helsinki Final Act.

We reiterate our call on Russia to comply immediately with the legally binding order of the International Court of Justice to suspend its military operations in Ukraine. Further, we urge Russia to immediately remove its armed forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. Ceasefire is an option. Diplomacy is an option. Steps towards

accountability will go a long way in rebuilding trust. We call on Russia to make the right choice and end this senseless war now.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that my statement be added to the journal of the day.



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PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Thank you.

Norway is aligned with the statement made by the European Union and stands fully behind its content, but allow me some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we again meet to confer about Russia's unprovoked and unlawful attack on Ukraine, we should recall that this war of choice did not start on 24 February but, rather, more than eight years ago. It started when the Russian Federation temporarily annexed Crimea and sent forces and weapons to Donetsk and Luhansk to assist the sham separatist movements allegedly existing in the eastern parts of these oblasts. The war has been going on since then, thoroughly fuelled by the Russian Federation, dramatically escalating to a full-scale attack on the whole country two months ago.

In response to these actions by Russia, we wish to recall that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) was deployed in March 2014, mandated to carry out observation of the agreed ceasefire, to contribute to reducing tensions and to help foster peace in Ukraine.

However, the story of the SMM has regrettably taken an unfortunate turn lately. Russia was not willing to extend the mandate of the SMM. Furthermore, we are hearing disconcerting reports about an increasing number of detentions and instances of persecution of national SMM staff currently residing in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk.

We join the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General in their call for the immediate release of these national SMM employees. We also join our voices to their condemnation of the deplorable acts of intimidation, harassment and hostile public rhetoric against the SMM and mission staff in areas of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

We, including Russia, gave the SMM its mandate. We, including Russia, employed the observers. The fact that an OSCE participating State is behind the detention and harassment of people it has consented to employ is totally unacceptable. We must be mindful

that such behaviour from a participating State puts the security and safety of the SMM national personnel at risk and undermines the field missions in general. To put it mildly, this is a most unfortunate precedent.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to admire the professionalism, dedication and courage with which the SMM staff have carried out their mandated tasks, both before and after their relocation. Their work has been important in many areas, not only their reporting on ceasefire violations, but also their outreach and contact with relevant stakeholders and civil society and their facilitation of localized ceasefires for vital infrastructure repairs. With their activities, the observers have made a difference to the local population by helping to alleviate human suffering.

We concur with Secretary General Schmid that all national Mission members remain OSCE officials and should be afforded functional immunity, also during this period when the mandate has lapsed.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 10

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1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Georgia aligns with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. In addition, allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Russia's war of aggression continues to inflict devastating damage and human suffering upon Ukraine. The death toll rises daily as a result of the occupying forces' continuous direct and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Again, we strongly condemn the massive human rights and international humanitarian law violations and call for accountability for these heinous crimes.

Regrettably, Russian shelling and bombings continued unabated even during the Orthodox Easter holidays.

We deeply regret that the situation remains critical in Mariupol, where local population has been trapped without water, food and medical supplies for over two months now. In this regard, we appreciate the United Nations Secretary-General's endeavours aimed at the establishment of humanitarian corridors, most importantly in Mariupol, where locals inside the Azovstal steel plant and in the city should be given a safe evacuation option and humanitarian assistance should be provided for those who remain. As rightly noted by the Secretary-General, the sooner this war ends, the better for the people of Ukraine, of the Russian Federation, and of other countries beyond.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Georgian delegation shares the spirit of the statement of the Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General of 24 April regarding the detention of national members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk, and joins the call for their immediate release.

We are concerned about Russia's plans to stage a sham "referendum" in occupied Kherson. This so-called referendum and its results would obviously be null and void, as was the vote staged in Crimea in 2014. If it is carried out, it will constitute a further violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russia.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on Russia to stop its unprovoked and unjustified aggression, comply with the order of the International Court of Justice, and withdraw all its forces and armament from the territory of Ukraine.

Georgia reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and for Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Iceland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Please allow me to make a few remarks on behalf of the Icelandic delegation.

Firstly, we express our appreciation of the convening of the Permanent Council's Human Dimension Committee and Economic and Environmental Committee this week, both meetings being dedicated to critical topics related to the situation in Ukraine and Russian aggression, the first to the rights of children and youth in conflict, and the second to growing risks to security from environmental threats and damage to critical energy infrastructure.

We have heard expert testimonies stressing that the war has had and will continue to have long-lasting tragic consequences beyond what we can fully comprehend today, especially for Ukrainian children and young people and their future. Around half of the 5.3 million refugees who have fled the war in Ukraine are children, and further millions are internally displaced, which likewise puts them at immense risk of trafficking and exploitation.

Russia's troops continue to kill, injure and traumatize millions of children, notably through indiscriminate attacks destroying schools, hospitals and homes. In addition to its devastating human cost, the war has caused extensive destruction of the environment and ecosystems, cultural and religious buildings, and civilian infrastructure. It has also jeopardized trust and friendly relations among States and threatens nuclear, food and energy security worldwide.

Mr. Chairperson,

If it has ever been urgent to strengthen our commitment to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, it is now. The adoption of this resolution enshrined the principle that women's full and meaningful participation in decision-making, negotiations and peacebuilding makes a positive difference in favour of sustainable security.

It is imperative that we address pressing security challenges facing the OSCE area and the world through diplomacy within a rules-based international order in which the Charter of the United Nations, international law and OSCE commitments are respected. Russia's war of aggression and flagrant violations of international law pose a serious threat to all of us, as

does the climate crisis. Children and young people look to global leaders and wonder what the world they are inheriting is going to be like.

We reiterate the call on Russia, with its co-aggressor Belarus, to put an end to the destruction and suffering it is causing, withdraw its troops, adhere to its international obligations and commitments, and engage in diplomatic and peaceful means of resolution in good faith. Let me express Iceland's full and unwavering support to Ukraine and Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and waters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and would like to ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1371st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Luhansk, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa, Dnipro, Irpin, Bucha, Hostomel, Kherson, Kharkiv, Mariupol.

If you gave me a blank map of Ukraine, I would be able to point to the location of those cities and towns quite precisely. Before 24 February I knew only some of them. And I wish I did not know their location for the reason I do.

But I am afraid that soon we are going to learn about just as many Russian cities, towns and villages that we don't want to learn about. Definitely not for the reason we are going to learn about them, namely, because of people from Ukraine who have been deported to those Russian cities, towns and villages.

A very sad way of teaching geography.

A century-old way.

The deportations are well known to many States once occupied by Russia, including Latvia. The deportations started as soon as the Russians crossed Latvia's border in 1940 and continued even more than a decade later.

In total, approximately 60,000 people were deported from Latvia to remote regions of Russia and other republics it occupied. They were deported in cattle trains. Cattle trains.

What awaited them there? Famine, cold, fear, violence, disease, desperation. The deportees were called fascists and treated as such.

Just to remind you that I am talking about 1941 now.

These two books¹ tell stories of 3,750 children aged 16 and younger who were deported on one single day from Latvia. Actually, these books contain only a small part of the total stories because they only tell the stories of those who survived. The children were Latvian, Jewish, Russian and Polish. No matter how old they were, how long they survived, each of them already had a story.

Just like Kira, the three-month-old Kira, killed by Russian missiles in Odesa, who already had her story.

Now Russia is deporting Ukrainians. Again. Reportedly around half a million people have already been deported from the territory of Ukraine to Russia. One hundred and twenty thousand of them are children. One hundred and twenty thousand within two months. If you calculate, every day in Ukraine is such a day as in these two huge books.

How many books will we have to write?

With its deportations of Latvian citizens, Russia did not manage to destroy the Latvian nation, nor did the Russification policy that lasted almost five decades manage to make us forget the Latvian language, nor did the prohibition on celebrating our festivities such as the winter solstice destroy our culture.

Ukraine suffered similar policies and crimes against humanity under Soviet Russia.

It is despicable that Russia is now trying to put Ukraine through it once again.

But Russia will never succeed.

Russia will never succeed in subjugating Ukraine and destroying the Ukrainian nation.

You will never destroy a nation where a grandma shoots down your unmanned aerial vehicle from her balcony with a jar of pickled tomatoes.

Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation are invincible.

Slava Ukraini!

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

1 *The Children of Siberia. We had to tell this ...*, Part I, A–K (1,180 pages), Part II, L–Ž (1,448 pages) (Fonds Sibīrijas bērni, 2011).



1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova welcomes Claus Neukirch back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for a comprehensive and timely report on the state of play and most recent security developments in the Transnistrian region of my country in the evolving regional security context.

My delegation shares the assessment contained in the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Indeed, the ongoing war in Ukraine has a major negative impact on neighbouring countries, including the Republic of Moldova. At our borders, but also within the country, we are facing new challenges stemming, primarily, from the unpredictable security environment. Regrettably this security uncertainty in the Transnistrian region has been increasingly fuelled by false bomb alerts in schools and medical institutions a few weeks ago. The latest attacks against a number of sensitive facilities bring the tension to a new level. We believe that these incidents are clearly aimed at provoking escalatory reactions and dragging the Transnistrian region and the entire Republic of Moldova into the ongoing war. Whoever is behind this escalation, including possibly certain forces inside the Transnistrian region, the Republic of Moldova will stay on a course of keeping peace and stability while firmly condemning any step that is contrary to this goal.

At the same time, under the pretext of ensuring security in the region, Tiraspol has introduced a so-called “red level” of security alert and established various restrictions, particularly on traffic, for 15 days. Among these measures, we notice an exaggerated and unjustified restriction of the movement of different categories of citizens, by setting up block posts at unauthorized checkpoints on the perimeter of the administrative line. We note with regret that this approach restores the region’s self-isolation regime, as well as significant and abusive barriers to free movement between the two banks of the Nistru River. Thus, this course of action will only jeopardize the Transnistrian settlement process and lead to negative security consequences.

Excellencies,

As already noted, the current crisis has affected the prospects of the Transnistrian settlement process. Nevertheless, our approach remains unchanged. Moldova pleads for an exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict based on respect for Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for the Transnistrian region, while ensuring the functionality of the reintegrated State.

Against the background of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine we had to postpone the "5+2" meeting previously scheduled for May, thus the entire process in the "5+2" format and the Bavaria Conference will remain on hold. But Chisinau will continue a constructive dialogue and interaction with Tiraspol both at the level of the chief negotiators, within the framework of the sectoral working groups, and within the Joint Control Commission, with the aim of solving emerging issues in the interest of people living on both banks of the Nistru River. We welcome the visit of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Thomas Mayr-Harting, and the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Artur Dmochowski, which is starting today.

Let me refer now to a number of specific aspects of the Transnistrian conflict settlement.

On freedom of movement, we note with regret that Tiraspol has repeatedly and severely restricted the free movement of citizens since 26 April under the pretext of establishing the so-called red security alert code, installing filters and concrete blocks at illegal checkpoints; Tiraspol has imposed a system of written preventive notifications, including on representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations. Thus, we note the repetition of the self-isolation scenario of the region, similar to the period from 16 March 2020 to 30 April 2021. We are very concerned with these trends and Tiraspol's unilateral and multiple breach of its commitments on movement, which has so far been unhindered on the right bank.

On politico-military issues, the Moldovan positions of principle remain unchanged: the illegal character of the Operative Group of Russian Forces' presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova is contrary to the principles of international law, the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the Constitution of Moldova. We continue to call for the unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops and ammunition from the territory of Moldova. Our position on the transformation of the current peacekeeping operation on the Nistru River into a multinational civilian mission under an appropriate international mandate also remains valid. We hope to be able to come back to these issues in the near future.

On health, against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Chisinau continued its efforts to strengthen the healthcare system of the country. All the while, the Moldovan authorities shared with the Transnistrian region humanitarian assistance, including personal protective equipment, high-performance medical equipment and 423,000 doses of vaccine. Moreover, this year, around 180 medical personnel from the left bank of the Nistru River attended trainings in various areas of expertise organized by the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chisinau. This is another example of efforts meant to build confidence between the two banks of the Nistru River.

At the same time, Mr. Neukirch raised the issue related to the import of medicines and phytosanitary products for use in the Transnistrian region. Several points need to be mentioned in this regard.

First, after the closure of crossing points along the Central (Transnistrian) segment of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border, all imports for Transnistrian companies must be cleared by the Moldovan customs. Compliance with the existing legal requirements is fairly demanded from all companies, from both banks of the Nistru River. The Moldovan authorities released a broad list of proposals and recommendations that would facilitate the import of medicines and pharmaceuticals into the region and overcome the existing concerns.

Therefore, to meet the necessary requirements, the Moldovan related bodies are working with companies from the Transnistrian region, providing them all the necessary assistance and making every effort to place their activity in the single economic and commercial area, in compliance with the legal framework applicable throughout the country. All the statements coming from Tiraspol about a so-called “blockade” are wrong. The question of medical supplies is being proposed for discussion at the level of the Emergency Situation Committee. Chisinau remains open for continuing discussion in the framework of the working group on health issues. Continuing dialogue and respecting necessary standards are two prerequisites for finding appropriate solutions.

On licence plates, the issuance of neutral-design licence plates in the two Vehicle Registration Offices in Ribnita and Tiraspol has remained suspended since last December. The Vehicle Registration Offices continued to work at a limited capacity. Tiraspol has conditioned the resumption of the issuance of neutral-design licence plates with the release of a consignment of blank Transnistrian-design number plates, which have been detained by the Moldovan customs authority on 22 December 2021 and later referred to the Moldovan police for further investigations. Subsequently, the Moldovan police has initiated contravention proceedings; the case is pending in court. Meanwhile, Chisinau has urged Tiraspol repeatedly not to link these developments with the functioning of the Vehicle Registration Offices and to re-open them. All our demands remain without any result.

On farmers’ lands, the case of the farmers is uncertain, considering the announcement of Tiraspol that the validity term of the 2017 Protocol Decision will end at the end of June. As you might recall, these unilateral measures undertaken by Tiraspol impede the access of residents to their agricultural lands in Dubasari. With numerous occasions, Chisinau requested Tiraspol to respect its previously agreed commitments and ensure the access of people to their lands.

On human rights, we remain deeply concerned by the repression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region. On numerous occasions, the OSCE participating States’ delegations expressed their concerns on this matter. It is alarming that international appeals to stop human rights violations remain neglected by the Tiraspol regime. We count on your active support and involvement in determining Tiraspol to curb the cases of political pressure on any dissenting voice, illegal detentions and convictions, as well as to immediately release political prisoners. The new restrictions might create grounds for additional human rights violations.

Unfortunately, since 2002, the Latin script schools still face the same challenges which lead to systemic violations. They are still operating in inappropriate premises, not to mention the cases of harassment and intimidation, hampering the educational process.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Moldovan delegation would like to make a few remarks in connection with the statement just made by the representative of the Russian Federation, who mentioned about alleged “provocative and discriminatory measures” on Russian media and the prohibition of commemorative symbols on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

On the first issue, the objective of measures undertaken by the national authorities is to protect the population against disinformation and manipulation. And second, nobody in Moldova is fighting against the symbols of our historical memory. The new bill is aimed, above all, to prohibit the use of symbols which promote military aggression. As the President of the Republic of Moldova stated: “People will be able to commemorate the heroes who fought in World War II, in that bloody conflagration directed against humanity and the good coexistence between people”.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since this is the last report by Claus Neukirch as Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, we would like to express our gratitude for his efforts and engagement during the four years of the given mandate. The delegation wishes Claus Neukirch success in his future endeavours.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1371
28 April 2022
Annex 14

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1371st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to start with some figures. Mr. Chairperson, you have been quoting data and referring to information from the Ukrainian side since this morning, but, as we understand it, this is all undocumented and requires additional verification. The data that I am about to give you on the destruction and casualties among the local population of the Donetsk People's Republic are very revealing. These data are all documented, with all the personal details of the people involved and the causes of death, also as regards the destruction of infrastructure.

Over the past two months, on the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic alone, 85 civilians have been killed, 367 civilians have received injuries of varying degrees of severity, and some 3,000 houses and more than 600 civilian infrastructure facilities have been destroyed, including at least 36 medical facilities (hospitals, clinics and even dog clinics), 25 critical infrastructure facilities, some 300 electricity, water and gas supply utilities, and 90 educational institutions and 155 social welfare facilities, including children's stores. It is hard to imagine the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk shelling themselves. The facts have been established – who was doing the shooting or firing, from where and using what kind of weapons.

Now for the main topic of discussion. Today we want to place particular emphasis on the supply of lethal weapons to the Ukrainian Government by foreign countries.

First of all, I should like to point out that NATO countries continue to supply the Kyiv regime with weapons on a massive scale. This is taking place in violation of the relevant restrictions under international and domestic law on militarization in crisis regions, where such weapons could be used to destabilize the situation or violate human rights. We have already stressed repeatedly that the uncontrolled circulation, including cross-border trafficking, of many of these weapons, including man-portable air defence systems and other similar types of weapons, will in the near future pose a direct and unprecedented threat to pan-European security, including civilian transport links.

Incidentally, the countries supplying Ukraine with these weapons also acknowledge the problem themselves. For example, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin, who visited Kyiv on 24 April, noted that the United States of America “can hardly keep track” of what happens to the weapons transferred to Ukraine. However, even this does not stop the US authorities and their allies from continuing to pump weapons into Ukraine, which only makes the prospect of the country returning to a peaceful life less likely. The distinguished representative of the United States also boasted about this today. The United States is not even hiding its attitude in this regard, with first the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley, and then the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, stating that military action in Ukraine “will continue for a long time”. Isn’t that the goal?

The United States is not the only country that has been bankrolling the destabilization of Ukraine for years in order to ensure that its naturally close historical and cultural ties with its neighbours are severed. For example, according to the Polish authorities, the Government of Poland has transferred over 1.6 billion dollars’ worth of weapons and military equipment to the Kyiv regime since the beginning of this year. Furthermore, Poland has become a trans-shipment base (logistical hub) for transporting weapons and foreign mercenaries to Ukraine, as a result of whose presence the civilian population continues to suffer. To put it bluntly, this is a very dubious reputation for an “honest broker” at the OSCE.

At the last meeting, the Permanent Representative of the European Union urged that there “was no need to bother” listing the volumes of military supplies provided by a number of European countries in recent months. We understand that voicing this information might be particularly uncomfortable for some people in this room, since such supplies are in violation of EU and pan-European norms, including the principles developed within the OSCE. Nevertheless, we stress once again: such actions are aimed at fomenting instability near Russia’s borders and reducing the standard of living and quality of life in Ukraine itself, and have nothing to do with a genuine desire to help strengthen Ukrainian statehood. The only purpose for which the West needs Ukraine is to undermine Russian sovereignty and counter Russia’s sustainable development.

They seek to achieve these objectives through the promotion of nationalist, neo-Nazi and militaristic ideology. For years after the February 2014 coup d’état, a number of Western countries helped to cultivate the ideas of Russophobia, misanthropy and Ukrainian national exclusivity in Ukraine. Despite the spread of this ideology, the presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine in 2019 showed that this set of “values” is strongly rejected by the vast majority of the inhabitants of Ukraine. However, having gained the trust of the citizens, Volodymyr Zelenskyy used his political muscle to deceive the Ukrainians by continuing, with strict mentoring from abroad, a course of forced Ukrainization and the exclusion of all things Russian from public and political life in Ukraine. They conducted a punitive military operation against the residents of Donbas and sabotaged the Minsk agreements, and created direct threats to Russia from the territory of Ukraine through its military assimilation by NATO. Moreover, under the guidance of NATO instructors, the Ukrainian Government practised practical operations and formed specific military plans for an offensive along the entire length of the line of contact in Donbas and also on the territory of neighbouring States.

The Russian special operation is aimed at protecting the population of the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics, who are being oppressed by the Kyiv regime, and at

preventing military threats from the territory of Ukraine to neighbouring States, first and foremost the Russian Federation.

Of course, the success of the Russian operation cannot please Ukraine's external handlers. In that context, we note the inflammatory advice of some countries to the politico-military leadership of Ukraine calling for an attack on the adjacent Russian territory. For example, the British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for the Armed Forces), James Heapey, recently distinguished himself with such remarks: "It is completely legitimate for Ukraine to be targeting in Russia's depth in order to disrupt the logistics". Moreover, the Ukrainian Government has been invited to use weapons supplied to Ukraine on a massive scale by the UK Government for this purpose. The desire to increase the scale of the militarization of Ukraine was also mentioned in the House of Commons on 25 April by British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace himself.

In fact, there is little that is surprising in this approach – the United Kingdom has been investing for years in propaganda for the war in Ukraine. One need only think of the methodical calls not to pursue a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in Donbas within the framework of the Minsk agreements on the basis of direct dialogue with the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk.

We emphasize: all foreign weapons supplied by NATO countries to Ukraine to kill citizens of Russia, Ukraine, the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) are legitimate military targets within the Russian special military operation.

During the special military operation, the Russian armed forces and DPR and LPR units have liberated significant territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, the entire Kherson region, and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv regions. A peaceful life is being established in these territories, critical public infrastructure facilities, social infrastructure, housing and communal services are being rapidly restored, and the planting of crops has begun. Mr. Chairperson, if you would give us an opportunity to show real footage – for example, of how people in Kherson live now and what the situation is like in other liberated regions – you would all see that normal life is being restored. Unfortunately, we are not given such an opportunity. Therefore, you can follow this on social media. At the same time, we note that the Kyiv regime continues to prevent the local population from returning to the liberated areas by blocking all the humanitarian corridors opened by the Russian side.

Mariupol and Azovstal have been mentioned today. For several weeks now, humanitarian corridors have been announced from morning to evening to allow civilians being held by the Azov nationalists to leave. The United Nations Secretary-General also spoke about this both in Moscow and in Kyiv. But what more can be done? Give the civilians an opportunity to leave, surrender your weapons. This is the logic in favour of peace. But this is not happening.

In Mykolaiv, fighters from "territorial defence battalions" have installed radio-controlled explosive devices with projectiles near the Mykolaiv aircraft repair plant, which they plan to detonate when civilians are gathered there, blaming the Russian military for their deaths. In the city of Lysychansk in the Luhansk People's Republic controlled by Ukrainian armed forces, the 57th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces

shelled the central market, after which smashed equipment was removed and bodies of dead Ukrainian military personnel disguised in civilian clothing were taken there. Ukrainian and foreign journalists were shown the site. We should like to warn you in advance that we are aware of the Ukrainian Government's plans to spread disinformation in the media and on the Internet about the alleged Russian atrocities in Lysychansk.

It goes without saying that we will continue to produce facts to refute this and other provocations and fake stories prepared by the Ukrainian Government, which are intended to malign the actions of the Russian armed forces. This is what happened with the alleged air strike on the maternity hospital in Mariupol, the shelling of the railway station in Kramatorsk and attempts to attribute to the Russian military "mass executions of civilians" in Bucha, Borodyanka and Irpin in the Kyiv region. Facts and evidence published, also by independent sources, show that Ukrainian armed formations were behind these incidents. We also know which of the Kyiv regime's external handlers orchestrated these criminal acts. Incidentally, the Russian President, when asked by Secretary-General António Guterres about what had happened in Bucha, explicitly said that we know for a fact who was in charge of this staged production.

The European Union has recently decided to allocate funds for the further dissemination of Ukrainian disinformation. There are reports of funding for the work of the commission investigating the so-called atrocities in Bucha: 7.5 million euros will go towards "training" Ukrainian law enforcement officials to investigate the alleged "crimes by the Russian army".

This is tantamount to financing the sought-for politically biased result of the so-called investigations, which will have nothing to do with the real state of affairs. And such tailoring to suit requirements can be seen in everything. It is quite remarkable in this regard that the European Union did not show the same zeal in helping to disclose details about real, tragic events – the Maidan shootings in February 2014 or the bloody events in Odessa in May 2014, where dozens of people were burned alive. And we understand why a number of Western countries were interested in hiding this information from Ukrainian society, for it was of key importance in completing the coup d'état.

It is telling that, in their desire to hide the truth about all these events, the Ukrainian intelligence services do not hesitate to employ the dirtiest methods. On 25 April, a group of members of the neo-Nazi terrorist organization National Socialism/White Power were detained in Russia for planning the murder of a public figure – the well-known Russian journalist, Vladimir Solovyov – on the orders of the Ukrainian Security Service. In addition, according to the testimony of the detainees, they discussed killing the journalists Dmitry Kiselyov, Margarita Simonyan, Olga Skabeyeva and Yevgeny Popov. The group members said they planned to flee to Ukraine once they had committed the crime. Once again, we see no reaction to what is happening from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Teresa Ribeiro. Or does she regard Russian journalists as second-class citizens?

Against this backdrop, in an attempt to convince the public that there are no manifestations of neo-Nazism in Ukraine, the Western media are taking things to the point of utter absurdity. For example, an article in the German newspaper *Die Welt* entitled "Die Lüge vom 'neonazistischen' Bataillon und die Schuld des Westens" (The neo-Nazi battalion lie and the guilt of the West), which was issued in defence of the Ukrainian Azov battalion, is

illustrated with a photograph of a gathering of its members. It shows the emblems of SS units and an updated emblem of the SS “Das Reich” tank division. Not to mention the fact that the “researchers” do not bother to study the hate speech of the battalion’s commanders, the literature they produce and the facts concerning their involvement in crimes against peaceful Ukrainians. Is it really so difficult to look back at the history of the country in the mid-twentieth century and to recall the mass murders already committed under the same banners and ideas? Is this incompetence on the part the publication’s staff or a deliberate attempt to justify the neo-Nazis in Ukraine?

Let us keep an open mind. The authorities in Kyiv are trying to convince the international community and themselves that there are no manifestations of neo-Nazism in Ukraine. But who are they really at war with, who do they associate themselves with? In recent weeks, memorials to those who fought against Nazism in the Second World War have been desecrated appallingly in territories under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces. On the authorities’ orders, the obelisk on Victory Square in Kyiv was desecrated, in Mukachevo the communal grave of soldiers and the monument to the liberation from fascism were destroyed, in Kharkiv the memorial to the distinguished military leader Georgy Zhukov was savagely demolished (and then thrown into a rubbish dump) and monuments to the liberating soldiers in a number of cities in western Ukraine have been destroyed. And what about the OSCE leadership? It is silent.

The Ukrainian Government continues to use the civilian population for military purposes. Here are some recent examples. In the town of Krasnyi Liman in the Donetsk People’s Republic, for now under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces, fighters from Ukrainian formations have set up a stronghold in a nursing home. Its staff and patients are being forcibly detained as human shields. In the city hospital on Lomonosov Street in Kostyantynivka, another city controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces in the Donetsk People’s Republic, Ukrainian military personnel cynically forced all the patients out of the medical facility regardless of the state of their health and are using the building for their own needs. In Zaporizhzhia, a unit of the Ukrainian armed forces is stationed in the city’s emergency hospital on Victory Street, while armoured vehicles and artillery firing positions are to be found in the surrounding area.

Ukrainian nationalists continue to hold 90 foreign nationals from five countries hostage as human shields. In addition, 75 foreign vessels from 17 countries remain trapped in seven ports (Kherson, Mykolaiv, Chernomorsk, Ochakiv, Odessa, Yuzhne and Mariupol). The risk of shelling and the extreme threat of mines created by Ukrainian formations in Ukraine’s internal waters and territorial sea prevent vessels from safely taking to the open sea.

All these actions by the Ukrainian side once again demonstrate a barbaric attitude towards human life and show complete disregard for the norms of morality, international humanitarian law and other existing obligations.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1371st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE (ALSO ON BEHALF OF AUSTRIA,
BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE CZECH
REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GERMANY,
GREECE, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MONACO, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA,
SLOVENIA, SPAIN AND SWEDEN)**

I am delivering this statement in my national capacity and also on behalf of the following participating States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

This list is provisional and will be consolidated in the written version of the text to be distributed.

On 25 April, Istanbul's 13th High Criminal Court sentenced Mr. Osman Kavala, a prominent human rights defender, to life in prison without parole, finding him guilty of attempting to overthrow the government. Seven other defendants were sentenced to 18 years in prison.

We deeply regret this verdict, which comes less than three months after the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe launched infringement proceedings against Turkey for refusing to implement the legally-binding judgement of the European Court of Human Rights. In December 2019, the Court ruled that Mr. Kavala's detention took place in the absence of sufficient evidence that he had committed an offence. It found that his arrest and pretrial detention pursued an ulterior purpose, namely to silence him and dissuade other human rights defenders from carrying out legitimate activities.

Turkey, as a Member of the Council of Europe, has the obligation to implement the decisions of the Court. Its continued refusal to implement these rulings increases the European Union's concerns regarding the Turkish judiciary's adherence to international and European standards. We call on Turkey to abide by its international commitments.

We call on Turkey to release Osman Kavala. In the current challenging times, protecting and upholding our common values, in particular the protection of human rights, is more important than ever.



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 16

Original: ENGLISH

1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

While Iceland fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, we would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

The right to a fair trial, an independent and impartial judiciary and a trustworthy justice system are essential foundations of a democratic and just society. As stated in the European Convention on Human Rights, “everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal.” In addition, the constitution of Turkey and its international law obligations and OSCE commitments codify the universal right to exercise freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

We are deeply concerned by Istanbul’s 13th High Criminal Court’s decision to convict the human rights defender Mr. Osman Kavala to life imprisonment, and by its sentencing of seven other defendants. The decision is unjust to say the least, and inconsistent with Turkey’s international commitments, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

We call on Turkey to release Kavala, implement the legally binding judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, and fully abide by its international commitments.



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

PC.JOUR/1371
28 April 2022
Annex 17

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1371st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We have taken note of the statements regarding the judicial case of Mr. Mehmet Osman Kavala and others.

This case is handled by an independent judiciary. According to the Turkish Constitution, judicial power is exercised by independent courts, and judges take decisions in accordance with the Constitution, the laws, and their personal conviction conforming to the law.

No organ, authority, office or individual may give orders or instructions or make recommendations or suggestions to courts.

Legal remedies are available against the Court's decision. It is possible for Mr. Mehmet Osman Kavala and others to appeal against the decision of the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court.

Therefore, the judicial process in Turkey has not yet been finalized, yet.

On the other hand, the process before the European Court of Human Rights regarding the case of Mr. Mehmet Osman Kavala continues. We expect the Court to act fairly and deliver its judgment taking into account the ongoing domestic proceedings.

I would recommend my colleagues to refrain from statements that may be construed as attempts to influence the judicial process.

I kindly ask, Mr. Chairperson, that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1371

28 April 2022

Annex 18

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1371st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1371, Agenda item 4(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

I see that no one has shown an interest in the report on the activities of the Chairmanship. That's a shame. I have a few questions and also some comments on the joint decision of the Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General to finally start winding up the now defunct OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

First of all, I should like to check with the Chairperson of the Permanent Council whether a written report on the work of the Chairmanship will be circulated. I hope this practice will not be forgotten. It would be desirable to obtain further details on some of the aspects that the Chairperson has just outlined.

Secondly, we would like to clarify the status of the forthcoming conference in Warsaw on 5 May. Why is it being announced in the OSCE Permanent Council? What does the Chairmanship mean by "donors' conference"? To our knowledge, neither the United Nations Secretary-General nor the heads of special humanitarian assistance programmes in Ukraine have asked the OSCE for any sponsorship, facilitation or organization of events of any kind within the framework of the humanitarian plan announced not long ago by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Martin Griffiths. I should like to know in more detail what kind of conference it is, who is invited, its agenda, and so on. If it is announced at a meeting of an OSCE decision-making body, it means that all participating States are invited. But this is not an event by our Organization: no decision has been taken on it, and its agenda has not been discussed. So there are a lot of questions here.

Thirdly, with regard to the functioning of the OSCE Troika, unfortunately there are no policy guidelines on its work, although attempts to create mechanisms for it to function according to collectively agreed norms have failed every time – 25 to my memory since 1994. Questions for the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, who announced that the Troika had met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine: in what capacity was the Chairperson-in-Office there, what issues were discussed with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, why was only this minister invited to the meeting, and what signals are sent to the OSCE community after this meeting? As a rule, the Troika has been required to issue press releases. This is the practice that has existed to date. The truth is that the Troika has hardly functioned

in recent years and has been an institution in name only. We are also interested in the story behind the announcement by the Chairperson of the Permanent Council that the Troika had supposedly called on the Russian Federation to do something.

Another point relating to the work of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. There was some talk about his participation in some event in India. It is our understanding that the Chairperson-in-Office was visiting India in this capacity and not as his country's foreign minister, as it was merely stated that he was providing information on the OSCE Chairmanship's view of the security situation in Europe in connection with the alleged "aggression", among other things. We understand that many people do not like the collectively agreed rules under which the Chairmanship is obliged to represent our Organization on the international stage. I shall read Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002 on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office. Paragraph 2(g) states that the Chairmanship-in-Office "shall be responsible for the external representation of the OSCE. In pursuing this task the Chairmanship-in-Office shall consult with the participating States on the process and shall act in accordance with the outcome of these consultations." It is our understanding that there was no consultation on the participation of the Chairperson-in-Office, much less on the presentation during the aforementioned international visit of his views on the activities of our Organization. We consider this to be a gross violation of the mandate of the OSCE Chairmanship. I ask you to convey this position personally to the Chairperson-in-Office, the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs Zbigniew Rau.

Now regarding the comments made by the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretary General on the former OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). We take note that a start has been made on winding up the work of the SMM. It's about time. I should like to make a few remarks on the organizational, political, legal and financial aspects.

In the absence of consensus on an extension of its mandate, the Mission effectively ceased to exist as from 1 April this year. Consultation on its future should have taken place before that date, not after. However, for the past four weeks, the former field operation has been in "idle" mode, which for some reason was described as "administrative". The SMM received full budgetary funding, resulting in unreasonable costs for the participating States.

The contracts of SMM personnel, including those international staff who were no longer able to perform monitoring functions, remained in force throughout this time. They were all put on "special leave with pay". Regular payments were made to contractors and lessors who were not involved in mandated tasks. Of course, we realize that the Mission would still have had to settle accounts with service providers for some time as it was being closed down. But now, because of the delay in the process of winding up the SMM, the cost has markedly increased.

The reasons for the non-renewal of the SMM mandate are clear, and we have spoken about them repeatedly. The Mission ultimately failed to fulfil its main tasks as mandated by the OSCE Permanent Council in 2014.

The monitoring function was only one part of the SMM's work. Its main objective was to contribute to a political settlement through dialogue and negotiation, along with

dealing with other tasks related to facilitating the cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and equipment, consultations on local elections and the drafting of a new constitution that would formalize on a permanent basis the status of the territories not controlled by the Ukrainian Government, using the “Steinmeier formula” agreed upon with the OSCE’s assistance – simply put, to facilitate dialogue with a view to achieving a political and diplomatic solution to the crisis. Such a settlement, we recall, was to have been completed with the OSCE’s assistance by the end of 2015, in accordance with the Minsk Package of Measures approved by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202.

Moreover, the Mission failed to prevent a resumption of armed confrontation. The facilitation of “windows of silence” and the restoration of civilian infrastructure are, of course, important aspects of the former SMM’s work. But they should not overshadow its many other tasks – gathering information and reporting impartially on the situation in the Mission’s area of operation, responding to reports of incidents, and establishing contact with local authorities, civil society and members of the local population.

So, the mandate of the SMM expired on 1 April 2022. One wonders why it was necessary to artificially delay the liquidation of the Mission once its mandate had expired. How has this benefited the OSCE? How much has the failure to make a timely decision to close this field operation cost? We address these questions to the Secretary General.

We believe that the Chairmanship is directly responsible for the inefficient use of the SMM’s budget over the past four weeks, having essentially formalized a non-procedural extension of its funding in the absence of a mandate.

That having been said, we would point out that the Russian Federation does not recognize the legitimacy of the invoices for the payment of contributions to the SMM budget issued to the participating States on 5 April 2022 under the pretext of invoking Financial Regulation 4.04. As we have already said, this norm cannot apply to field operations whose mandates have expired.

One last thing. It is our understanding that, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and the established practice of the OSCE, a draft technical decision of the Permanent Council on the approval of the final allocations for the SMM should be submitted to participating States as soon as possible, containing a clear determination of the financial and human resources needed for closure of the Mission and the planned time frame for which these resources are to be provided. In the absence of a decision of this nature, commitments and expenditure with respect to the Mission’s liquidation would be arbitrary and devoid of a political and legal basis, and the Mission’s financial statements could not be officially finalized on completion of the winding-up procedure.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.