
Chairmanship: Slovakia**1234th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**1. Date: Thursday, 4 July 2019Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 7.10 p.m.2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Žáková3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018 AND THE
REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson, OSCE External Auditor, Chairperson of the Audit Committee,
Secretary General, Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries
Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the
Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia
and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and
Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia,
Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/840/19), United States of
America (PC.DEL/802/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/803/19 OSCE+),
Canada, FranceAgenda item 3: REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIAChairperson, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
(FOM.GAL/3/19/Rev.1), Finland-European Union (with the candidate
countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; and the European Free

Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/841/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/801/19), Azerbaijan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/829/19 OSCE+), Turkey, Norway (PC.DEL/828/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/804/19), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Canada, France (PC.DEL/811/19 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/823/19 OSCE+), Albania, Serbia (PC.DEL/819/19 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Greece (also on behalf of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/816/19 OSCE+), Montenegro (PC.DEL/827/19 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/813/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/814/19), Armenia (PC.DEL/832/19), Lithuania (PC.DEL/821/19), United Kingdom, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/836/19 OSCE+), Cyprus (PC.DEL/822/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1334 (PC.DEC/1334) on the appointment of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, France (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Spain

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018 AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1335 (PC.DEC/1335) on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the Report of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1336 (PC.DEC/1336) on the extension of the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 7: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 8

Agenda item 8: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/20/19 OSCE+), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/842/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/805/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/830/19 OSCE+), Turkey, Norway (PC.DEL/826/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/818/19), Belarus (PC.DEL/808/19 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Canada, Georgia (PC.DEL/824/19 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/812/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/815/19)

Agenda item 9: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Seventy-fifth anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders:* Belarus (PC.DEL/809/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/806/19), Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/835/19 OSCE+)
- (b) *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture:* Czech Republic (also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/839/19 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/845/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/807/19)
- (c) *The trial of academics and civil society representatives in Turkey:* Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/844/19), Turkey

- (d) *Violation of human rights of asylum seekers and migrants in the European Union Member States: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/838/19), Finland-European Union (PC.DEL/843/19), Turkey*

Agenda item 10: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *OSCE Informal Ministerial Gathering, to be held in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, on 8 and 9 July 2019: Chairperson*
- (b) *High-level discussion on “Promoting the Role of Women in Addressing Environment and Security Challenges”, to be held in Vienna on 5 July 2019: Chairperson*

Agenda item 11: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in a high-level interregional conference on “A ‘whole-of-society’ approach to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism”, held in Ulaanbaatar on 20 and 21 June 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Meeting of the Secretary General with Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, held in Vienna on 1 July 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Mid-term review meeting with the European Union, held in Vienna on 24 June 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (d) *OSCE simulation-based training course on anti-trafficking, held in Nur-Sultan from 24 to 28 June 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Call for nominations for the positions of Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (f) *Participation of the Secretary General in the high-level discussion on “Promoting the Role of Women in Addressing Environment and Security Challenges” to be held in Vienna on 5 July 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (g) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 28th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, being held in Luxembourg from 4 to 8 July 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)*

- (h) *Participation of the Secretary General in the OSCE Informal Ministerial Gathering to be held in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, on 8 and 9 July 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/127/19/Rev.1 OSCE+)*
(SEC.GAL/127/19/Add.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation, to be held in Vienna on 5 July 2019: Switzerland (also on behalf of Finland and Turkey)*
(PC.DEL/831/19 OSCE+)
- (b) *Forthcoming international high-level conference on “Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies”, to be held in Minsk on 3 and 4 September 2019: Belarus*
(PC.DEL/810/19 OSCE+)
- (c) *International conference on “Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage: Facing the Challenge”, held in Athens on 21 and 22 June 2019: Greece*
- (d) *High-level interregional conference on “A ‘whole-of-society’ approach to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism”, held in Ulaanbaatar on 20 and 21 June 2019: Mongolia*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 11 July 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1334
4 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

1234th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1234, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1334
APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Article VIII of the Financial Regulations of 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96) concerning the OSCE External Auditors,

Taking note of the offer of the Court of Accounts (*Cour des Comptes*) of France to provide external audit services to the OSCE,

Recalling Financial Regulation 8.01 on the appointment and tenure of office of the External Auditor,

Accepts the kind offer of France and appoints the Court of Accounts of France for a period of three years, starting on 1 May 2020 and expiring on 30 April 2023.

Pursuant to Financial Regulation 8.01, the costs for travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be reimbursed from the OSCE Unified Budget.

PC.DEC/1334

4 July 2019

Attachment

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

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

By the delegation of France:

“France would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

France welcomes the adoption of the decision that appoints the Court of Accounts (*Cour des Comptes*) of France as External Auditor for 2020–2023 at the end of the one-year extension of the term of the Court of Audit (*Tribunal de Cuentas*) of Spain, which was decided upon on 6 June 2019, in agreement with Spain and in the spirit of the announcement made by the Chairmanship at the end of March regarding the next seven years. We regret, however, that the difficulties subsequently encountered – with regard to that announcement about the next seven years but having nothing to do with the candidature of the Court of Accounts – were not formally brought to the attention of the participating States and thus complicated the approval of France’s long-standing candidature and compromised the continuity of the good management of the OSCE.

As we have already pointed out, the appointment of the External Auditor is subject only to the criteria listed in OSCE Financial Regulation 8.01: ‘A fully qualified External Auditor who meets internationally accepted auditing standards’. The politicization of this issue calls into question the good governance of this Organization. We therefore argue that the existing Turkish candidature for the period 2023–2026 should be examined in such a depoliticized context and on its own merits.”

1234th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1234, Agenda item 5

DECISION No. 1335
FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018 AND THE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Permanent Council,

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

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

Taking note of the 2018 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/40/19 of 24 June 2019),

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

Taking note of the Unqualified Audit Opinion on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018,

1. Accepts the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018;
2. Requests the Secretary General to establish and submit to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance not later than 31 October 2019 a work plan for follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor as reflected in her Report for 2018. Further requests the Secretary General to inform the Permanent Council through the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance about the implementation of this plan on a regular basis, taking into account guidance from the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.



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

PC.DEC/1336
4 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

1234th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1234, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 1336
EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1211 of 7 July 2016 on the Terms of Reference of the OSCE Audit Committee,

Noting that the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee as contained in the annex of Decision No. 1211 are effective until 31 July 2019,

Decides that these Terms of Reference will remain in effect until 31 July 2022.