

Chairmanship: Sweden

1312th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 6 May 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 6 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 PROGRAMME OUTLINE
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/63/21 OSCE+), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/689/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/640/21 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/658/21 OSCE+), Canada, Turkey (PC.DEL/641/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/636/21), Holy See (PC.DEL/637/21 OSCE+), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein) (PC.DEL/670/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Albania (PC.DEL/638/21 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/642/21 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/644/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Armenia (PC.DEL/673/21), Poland (PC.DEL/659/21 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/646/21)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

(a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/643/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway,

members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/690/21), Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/686/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/669/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/639/21)

- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/647/21), Ukraine, Germany (also on behalf of France) (Annex 1)
- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters*: Armenia (Annex 2)
- (d) *76th anniversary of victory in the Second World War*: Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (Annex 3), Portugal-European Union, Azerbaijan (Annex 4), Armenia (PC.DEL/675/21)
- (e) *World Press Freedom Day, observed on 3 May 2021*: Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/693/21), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/645/21), Norway (also on behalf of Andorra, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/649/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/671/21 OSCE+), Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/668/21 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/717/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/656/21/Rev.1 OSCE+), Uzbekistan
- (f) *Recent escalation of tensions at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border*: Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/691/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/648/21), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada), Turkey (PC.DEL/653/21 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/684/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/660/21), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/661/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/666/21 OSCE+), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/667/21 OSCE+), Uzbekistan
- (g) *Human rights concerns in the Russian Federation*: United States of America (PC.DEL/651/21), United Kingdom, Canada, Norway (PC.DEL/665/21), Portugal-European Union, Switzerland (PC.DEL/685/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/662/21 OSCE+)
- (h) *Statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, issued on 5 May 2021*: United States of America (also on behalf of France and the Russian Federation), Canada, Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia

and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, in alignment) (PC.DEL/731/21), United Kingdom, Azerbaijan (Annex 5), Armenia (Annex 6), Turkey (Annex 7)

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Briefing on the priority of the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship for May 2021:* Chairperson
- (b) *Meeting between the Chairperson-in-Office and the special and personal representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, held via video teleconference on 3 and 4 May 2021:* Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the Secretary General's weekly report (SEC.GAL/61/21/Corr.1 OSCE+):* Secretary General, Russian Federation
- (b) *Recent escalation of tensions at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border:* Secretary General
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General on 30 April 2021 in the Munich Cyber Security Conference, held via video teleconference on 29 and 30 April 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/61/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parliamentary election in Albania, held on 25 April 2021: Albania (PC.DEL/663/21 OSCE+), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries 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 and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/692/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/655/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/657/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 13 May 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1312
6 May 2021
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1312th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Madam Chairperson,

Since our esteemed colleague from the Russian Federation referred to the Normandy format in his remarks, I should like on behalf of France and Germany to make the following comments on the negotiating format and the basis for negotiations within the framework of the Minsk agreements.

The Minsk agreements continue to be the sole framework for settling the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The Minsk agreements comprise the Minsk Protocol including its Addendum, the Minsk Memorandum and the Minsk Package of Measures. Reference to only individual parts of this overall package reflects neither the spirit nor the wording of the Minsk agreements. The Minsk agreements were all negotiated and signed on behalf of the Russian Federation by its official representatives. Russia has thus assumed in a clear and binding manner its responsibility for the peaceful settlement of the conflict and for the implementation of the steps set out in the Minsk agreements.

The Minsk agreements are unambiguous with regard to the role and composition of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG). According to the Minsk agreements, the sole members of the TCG are Russia, Ukraine and the OSCE. The “direct negotiations” between the Ukrainian Government on the one hand and the representatives of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions on the other concerning all stages of the conflict settlement, which our Russian colleague has already repeatedly called for here in the Permanent Council, contradict the letter and the spirit of the Minsk agreements. Where the Minsk agreements refer to the representatives of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Minsk Package of Measures explicitly refers to the TCG as the framework for such contacts. The Minsk agreements speak not of bilateral talks but of co-ordination by the TCG with the representatives of those regions. This co-ordination has been taking place regularly since 2015 within the framework of the TCG and its working groups.

The TCG’s mandate is clear. Russia should actively and constructively contribute in the TCG to the settlement of the conflict within the scope of its responsibility and not

continue to block the steps for implementation set out in the Paris summit declaration, which have already been developed in the working groups. We also explicitly call on the Russian Government to exercise its considerable influence over the Russia-backed separatists to ensure that the Minsk commitments are fully implemented.

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) plays an indispensable role in establishing the facts on the ground and reducing tensions by facilitating dialogue between the parties.

However, the SMM continues to be prevented from implementing its mandate in full measure. There continue to be daily restrictions on the freedom of movement of patrols, almost exclusively beyond the line of contact, in territory not controlled by the Ukrainian Government. These obstructions seriously undermine the operational capability and findings of the SMM and are a violation of the Minsk agreements. We strongly urge Russia to bring its influence to bear so that these restrictions and attacks on the SMM's equipment stop. In addition, we call for the SMM to be able to expand its infrastructure for more effective observation. This means that the SMM would finally be able to establish the necessary new bases in non-government-controlled areas.

Together with France, Germany is determined to continue its efforts within the Normandy format to achieve tangible progress and improve the situation, especially for the people affected on the ground. We call on the parties to implement in good faith their obligations under the Minsk agreements and the conclusions of the Paris summit. We urge Ukraine to fulfil its commitments in the political sphere. We call on Russia to engage more constructively in the Normandy format negotiations and to exercise its influence over the separatists to enable progress to be made in the TCG negotiations.

Allow me to conclude by referring to the Arria-formula meeting on Ukraine, held in New York on 5 May 2021, which my Russian colleague mentioned in his remarks and on which he announced that information would be provided. In that connection, I refer to the joint statement made by Estonia, Ireland, France, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Belgium and Germany at this Arria-formula meeting on 5 May 2021. Among other things, we regret that Russia has once again used this meeting formula to spread false information about the events in Ukraine.

In view of the time constraints, I will not read out the statement on yesterday's Arria-formula meeting in its entirety, but I will attach it to my statement as an annex.

Thank you.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1312
6 May 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1312th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Almost half a year after the signing of the trilateral ceasefire statement which put an end to the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan with the direct support of Turkey and Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters, Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages continue to remain in Azerbaijani detention in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and paragraph 8 of the aforementioned trilateral statement. On 3 May the lawyers representing the interests of Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees before the European Court of Human rights disclosed the names of 19 Armenian prisoners of war and civilians tortured and arbitrarily killed in captivity by the Azerbaijani military. Of the 19 Armenians killed, 12 were civilians, including four women. The evidence obtained proves beyond doubt that Eduard Shahgeldyan, Arsen Gharakhanyan, Genadi Petrosyan, Yurik Asryan, Misha Melkumyan, Nina Davtyan and the couples Benik and Elena Hakobyan, Serzhik and Ella Vardanyan and Misha and Anahit Movsisyan were severely tortured and killed after being captured by Azerbaijani forces.

The remaining seven captives killed were the military servicemen Erik Mkhitarian, Gagik Mkrtchyan, Arayik Poghosyan, Vardges Ghazaryan, Yuri Adamyan, Arthur Manvelyan and Narek Babayan.

These barbaric arbitrary killings of prisoners of war and civilians by an OSCE participating State must receive a proper response from the OSCE and the relevant executive structures. The silence and indifference towards this uncivilized and barbaric policy on the part of Azerbaijan in fact further encourages Azerbaijan to continue to dehumanize, torture and kill Armenian prisoners of war without any consequence and with impunity, as do the continued attempts of international partners to invent or endorse a narrative which may somehow justify that muted reaction. Today's Azerbaijani policy, both internal and external, is the result of long years policy of appeasement and attempts to accommodate the country at the expense of OSCE values.

Distinguished colleagues,

Given the Azerbaijani authorities' policy of non-disclosure of the real number of detainees, the continued incommunicado detention of Armenian prisoners of war and

civilians bears within it the threat of their potential enforced disappearance. We call on the OSCE Swedish Chairmanship, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and other OSCE participating States to exert pressure on Azerbaijan to immediately and unconditionally release all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages currently held in Azerbaijan. It should be clear that in a country where Armenophobia and anti-Armenian hatred have been elevated to the level of State policy and have penetrated all areas of daily life – from politics to culture, from science to education – and where inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees is systemic and endemic, the threat to the lives of the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians increases exponentially with each passing day they remain in Azerbaijani captivity.

Madam Chairperson,

This delegation continually raises the issue of State-promoted anti-Armenian hate propaganda in Azerbaijan as a source of serious concern. The notorious recently inaugurated “Trophy Park” in Baku is an illustrative example that has been recognized as the embodiment and epitome of that policy.

It is worth recalling the letter of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, to the President of Azerbaijan, in which she expressed regret over the “Trophy Park” and described the “dehumanising scenes, including wax mannequins depicting dead and dying Armenians soldiers” as “highly disturbing and humiliating”. “This kind of display,” she continued, “can only further intensify and strengthen long-standing hostile sentiments and hate speech, and multiply and promote manifestations of intolerance.” We regret the absence of a similar reaction from the OSCE and its bodies.

These latest developments reveal the gradually increasing gap and discrepancy between the words and the deeds of the Azerbaijani authorities, in particular the words voiced at the highest level. Against the backdrop of the recent open threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, which are unprecedented in the OSCE area, the hereditary President of Azerbaijan has continued his aggressive and preposterous rhetoric, this time during a meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, where he spoke about the sovereign territory of Armenia in a derogatory manner as if he had the right to make decisions on behalf of the Republic of Armenia thus making territorial claims against Armenia. The medieval mindset revealed by such behaviour and rhetoric is absolutely unacceptable, seriously undermines regional peace and stability, and goes against the logic of modern international relations. We therefore call on the OSCE participating States to condemn such manifestations of aggressive rhetoric and flagrant violation of OSCE principles and commitments.

Madam Chairperson,

Since the war of aggression was launched by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and its people, this delegation has repeatedly raised the issue of Armenian cultural heritage and religious sites being targeted, from the very first day of the war, by the Azerbaijani forces. We have also presented ample evidence of destruction of the rich Armenian cultural heritage in the recently occupied territories of Artsakh. Unfortunately, the destruction and identity theft and alteration of Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh intensifies with each passing day. Recently, under the pretext of reconstruction, the Azerbaijani authorities removed the

domes from Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of the Holy Saviour in Shushi. Delegations may recall that this is the same Armenian cathedral which on 8 October 2020 was twice targeted by Azerbaijan with high-precision weapons while there were journalists and civilians inside. This was the second attempt by Azerbaijan in a hundred years to alienate this Armenian cathedral by altering and distorting its original appearance. Ironically, the domes of the cathedral were first destroyed by Azerbaijanis (then Caucasian Tatars) back in 1920.

We express concern over the present construction works at Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of the Holy Saviour, which are aimed to deprive the cathedral of its Armenian identity and change its historical-architectural integrity and condemn these actions on the part of Azerbaijan in the strongest terms.

The policy of destruction of cultural heritage and places of worship in Artsakh once again proves that the vandalism carried out by Azerbaijan is driven by hatred towards Armenians. Yet another demonstration of this policy is provided by the deliberate and complete demolition of the Armenian church of the Holy Mother of God (Zoravor Surb Astvatsatsin) in Mekhakavan, as documented by the BBC and confirmed by Azerbaijani authorities without the slightest remorse.

Recently there have also been reports about vandalism and desecration of the Armenian cemeteries in the villages of Taghavard (Martuni region) and Mets Tagher (Hadrut region), which are currently under Azerbaijani occupation.

Madam Chairperson,

The 9 November trilateral ceasefire statement put an end to military hostilities. However, the conflict is far from being resolved, despite Azerbaijani statements to the contrary, since the fundamental issue of the conflict – the status of Artsakh – is yet to be addressed. This is an understanding that is shared by our international partners.

At the same time, we have repeatedly drawn the attention of the OSCE participating States to Azerbaijan's violations of provisions of the trilateral statement. Azerbaijan continues to violate not only its commitment on returning prisoners of war and hostage civilians but also the paragraph of the statement stipulating that the parties shall stop at the positions held at the moment of signing of the statement.

This delegation raised this issue back in December 2020, when the Azerbaijani armed forces advanced their positions in the direction of Khtsaber and Hin Tagher villages in the Hadrut region and captured 64 Armenian military servicemen.

This time, the Azerbaijani armed forces are making attempts to advance their positions in the direction of the village of Nor Ghazanchi in the north-east of Artsakh.

Furthermore, Azerbaijani military forces are engaging in acts of intimidation towards civilian settlements of the Syunik province of Armenia. Recently, in Syunik province, they seized a shepherd with the intention of abducting him; later the shepherd was rescued by Armenian servicemen.

We believe that these acts, when considered in the context of statements by the Azerbaijani leader containing claims on sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, represent a policy pattern which should not only be unequivocally condemned by the international community but also countered at this stage.

Madam Chairperson,

The anti-Armenian and extremely hostile actions are proof of Azerbaijan's systemic, hate-induced State policy of intolerance towards all Armenians. This being the case, the people of Artsakh are clearly living under serious existential risks.

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of the flagrant violation by Azerbaijan of several core principles of the Helsinki Final Act, namely, refraining from the threat or use of force; peaceful settlement of disputes; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No one should be under any illusion that the results of the use of force, accompanied by war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, can ever become the basis for a lasting and sustainable peace. Such a peace can only be achieved in the region through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include the determination of the status of Artsakh on the basis of the realization by the people of Artsakh of its inalienable right to self-determination, the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of the recently displaced population to their homes, and the preservation of the region's Armenian cultural and religious heritage.

Madam Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1312

6 May 2021

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1312th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN,
SERBIA, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN)**

In 2021, we celebrate the 76th anniversary of the victory over Nazism in the Second World War – one of the greatest tragedies of the twentieth century, which claimed tens of millions of lives and caused terrible suffering to humanity.

During those harsh years, the selfless sacrifice and patriotism of our peoples who won this victory, which is our common heritage, was vividly demonstrated. We pay our deepest respects to the surviving veterans for their heroism and feats of labour during the war years.

We bow down with deepest gratitude before all those who demonstrated such courage, resilience and heroism in giving their lives for the freedom of future generations – millions of soldiers, partisans, members of resistance movements and civilians.

We call for good care to be taken of war graves, memorials, monuments and obelisks in honour of those who died in the fight against Nazism and fascism. There is no justification for vandalism at such memorial sites.

It is our solemn duty to safeguard and resolutely defend the historical truth about those events, which is preserved in the memory of our peoples and in archive documents. The falsification of the history of the Second World War, including its causes and outcomes, is an insult to the memory of those who fought against Nazism and of its victims, contributing to the manipulation and undermining of the foundations of contemporary international relations.

In this connection, any form of glorification of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS is unacceptable – this includes the erection of monuments and memorials and the organization of public demonstrations to glorify the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, and proclaiming or attempting to proclaim members of this movement and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition, collaborated with the Nazis and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity as participants in national liberation movements, and renaming streets in order to glorify them.

We believe that there is a need for strict compliance with the judgments of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, which have no statute of limitations. We strongly condemn any attempt to rehabilitate and glorify Nazi criminals and their accomplices.

In that connection, we note the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 16 December 2020 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. By hushing up crimes motivated by racial, ethnic and religious hatred, including neo Nazism and aggressive nationalism, there is a risk of repeating the tragic mistakes of the past.

We reaffirm our commitment to the idea of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Eurasian and Euro Atlantic security community. We are in favour of a comprehensive dialogue, based on equality and mutual respect, that seeks to strengthen the system of international security and trust.



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

PC.JOUR/1312
6 May 2021
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1312th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan thanks the esteemed Ambassador of the Russian Federation for his statement delivered on behalf of a number of participating States, including Azerbaijan, on the issue of the 76th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. In our national capacity, we would like to briefly add the following.

For the last 28 years, 9 May – the Victory Day in the Second World War – has been associated in Azerbaijan with the occupation on 8 May 1992 of Azerbaijan’s city of Shusha, the cradle of Azerbaijan’s culture and an inalienable part and parcel of the self-consciousness and identity of the Azerbaijani people. The occupation continued for nearly three decades before last year’s counteroffensive operation by the armed forces of Azerbaijan put an end to it and restored Azerbaijan’s infringed sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thus, this year’s Victory Day in the Second World War in Azerbaijan for the first time in almost three decades is not shadowed by the injustice of the occupation of Shusha, and Azerbaijan’s contribution to the victory over Nazism and fascism is celebrated with particular pride.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1312
6 May 2021
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1312th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(h)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan thanks the distinguished representative of the United States of America for raising this current issue.

We took a positive note that the humanitarian gesture by Azerbaijan to release three Armenian detainees was welcomed by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

We expect that this goodwill gesture of Azerbaijan will be duly reciprocated by Armenia which has still to implement its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as under the trilateral statements of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia. Armenia has yet to deliver on its obligations regarding the release of information on the whereabouts of close to 4000 Azerbaijanis who went missing due to the armed conflict in 1991–1994 and investigating numerous crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated against Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis. We also expect that Armenia will finally release the maps of mined areas of the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan to honour its obligations under customary international humanitarian law. These are all of crucial importance for healing the wounds of the military occupation that Armenia had unleashed against Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan having restored its territorial integrity has left the conflict behind and now is actively engaged in the post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of its conflict-affected territories. Azerbaijan is determined to reintegrate its citizens of Armenian origin on an equal footing guaranteeing all the rights and freedoms in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan actively co-operates with international organizations, including humanitarian organizations, and creates all necessary conditions for their work in the conflict-affected territories on the basis of respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity in compliance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on humanitarian assistance.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its determination to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of internationally recognized borders and expects the same political willingness to be demonstrated by Armenia.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



1312th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(h)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished chargé d'affaires of the United States for presenting to the Permanent Council the statement released on 5 May by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. We also take note of the statements made by the delegations of Canada, the European Union and the United Kingdom in response to the statement of the Co-Chairs, which constitute a welcoming sign of resumption of the process of finding a peaceful and negotiated resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict after the war of aggression unleashed last autumn by Azerbaijan and its allies.

Madam Chairperson,

As stated earlier today during our discussions on the 2022 Programme Outline, Armenia continues to support the efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at a negotiated, political and comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the well-known principles and elements. This requires a solid and strong co-chairmanship, which will lead the process in accordance with the clearly defined mandate and long-established working practices.

We reiterate that it is high time to focus on a final, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and would once again stress that this conflict is about the right of the people of Artsakh to live freely in their historical homeland and to determine their own destiny without coercion and limitation. Temporary occupation of the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh accompanied by war crimes, complete ethnic cleansing, threats and aggressive posturing can hardly be considered a sustainable and lasting solution. Only a negotiated political settlement, taking into account the rights of all and determining the status of Artsakh on the basis of the exercise of the right to self-determination, can be considered as a settlement of the conflict.

We took note that in their statement the Co-Chairs “call on both parties to fully and expeditiously complete the exchange process for all prisoners, detainees, and remains, and to respect their obligations to ensure the humane treatment of detainees.”

In this regard, we would like to once again recall that Armenia has fully implemented its commitments and has released all Azerbaijani prisoners of war on the basis of the “all for all” principle. Moreover, Armenia has returned two Azerbaijani criminals convicted for the murder of two people, including a teenage boy in Artsakh.

Which side openly violates the implementation of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 and inflicts enormous suffering on hundreds of people and their family members is well known to the Co-Chairs. There are no prisoners of war or any Azerbaijani detainees in Armenia. Therefore, we believe that instead of making generalized calls to both parties, the Co-Chairs should call things by their proper names. Today we informed the Permanent Council about the 19 Armenians tortured and killed in Azerbaijani captivity. In this context, we note with concern that the threat to the lives of the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians in Azerbaijani detention increases exponentially with each passing day.

We also expect the Co-Chairs to finally react to Azerbaijan’s State policy of promoting racism and de-humanizing Armenians as well as to the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in the occupied territories of Artsakh.

Likewise, we took note of the Co-Chairs’ call for the lifting of restrictions on access to Nagorno-Karabakh for international humanitarian organizations. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that previously existing practices should be maintained, and that humanitarian issues should not become the subject of political manipulation.

Armenia has on numerous occasions expressed its readiness for high-level meetings. For such meetings, however, it is first of all necessary to create the minimum conditions of trust and a basic record of delivering on previous agreements. With its belligerent, destructive and inhuman actions and statements, Azerbaijan has created serious obstacles to this end.

Armenia is also ready to receive the Co-Chairs within the framework of the established practice of their regional visits.

I thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1312
6 May 2021
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

1312th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1312, Agenda item 2(h)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

It is important to recognize positive developments such as the ceasefire, the end of the illegal occupation, and rising prospects of normalization and co-operation in the region. Therefore, we welcome the release of three detainees. It is a good-willed step that builds confidence. Yet confidence-building ought to be a two-way exercise. As a Minsk Group member, we would be interested to learn about the activities that the Co-Chairs are conducting to this end.

Turkey is an active member of the OSCE Minsk Group. The sequencing and methodology of the interaction between the Co-Chairs and the Minsk Group members are clear. We have been emphasizing the necessity of bringing synergy to this interaction on every occasion. We are ready to share our ideas regarding the current situation with the Co-Chairs in the consultations which we hope they will resume with the members of the Minsk Group in line with their mandate.

Madam Chairperson,

We regret the continuation of poisonous discourse and enmity here at the OSCE. We reject all the allegations repeated today in the hate-speech slot that the Armenian delegation created for itself. This morning again, unfortunately, we have even seen that international staff of the High-Level Planning Group are not spared from this hate speech.

We have expressed our vision for the future of the region several times. It is Armenia and the Armenian people that will benefit most from stability and economic development in our region.

We join Azerbaijan's call on the OSCE and its participating States to support the two trilateral statements. With its rich toolbox, the OSCE could make important contributions.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.