
Chairmanship: Albania**1276th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 23 July 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconferencing)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.15 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 7 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Permanent Council of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings of the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND ALTERNATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GREECE, H.E. MR. MILTIADIS VARVITSIOTIS

Chairperson, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (PC.DEL/998/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1039/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/987/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/986/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/1049/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/996/20 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/997/20 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1046/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1017/20 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1030/20 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1033/20) (PC.DEL/1034/20), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1028/20), United Kingdom, Cyprus (PC.DEL/989/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Agenda item 2: REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO
 SKOPJE

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (PC.FR/28/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro 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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1040/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/988/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/995/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/990/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1015/20 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1048/20), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/999/20 OSCE+), North Macedonia (PC.DEL/1047/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE GENDER
 ACTION PLAN

Chairperson, Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/105/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1042/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/992/20), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1024/20 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1050/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1016/20 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/994/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/993/20), Canada (PC.DEL/1008/20 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/991/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1012/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/1000/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE DATES AND AGENDA OF THE
 2020 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION
 IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1372 (PC.DEC/1372) on the dates and agenda of the 2020 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (PC.DEL/1006/20), Poland

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1027/20), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1041/20), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1031/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1005/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1018/20 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1010/20 OSCE+), Lithuania (Annex 1)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1002/20/Corr.1), Ukraine
- (c) *National Press Day in Azerbaijan, observed on 22 July 2020:* Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1014/20 OSCE+)
- (d) *Latest developments in Belarus in the context of the upcoming presidential election, to be held on 9 August 2020:* Germany-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 Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1043/20), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/1037/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1007/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1021/20 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1029/20 OSCE+)
- (e) *Situation of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Russian Federation:* Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1045/20), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/1036/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1009/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1020/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1003/20 OSCE+)
- (f) *Resumption of federal executions in the United States of America:* Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1044/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1019/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1004/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1013/20)

- (g) *Attacks on Russian journalists in the United States of America: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1001/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1011/20)*

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *20th conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, held in Vienna and via teleconferencing from 20 to 22 July 2020: Chairperson*
- (b) *Presentation of the Report of the External Auditor and the Annual Report of the Audit Committee to the 1277th plenary meeting of the Permanent Council, to take place on 30 July 2020: Chairperson*

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

- (a) *Developments related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/20 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretariat (SEC.GAL/106/20 OSCE+): Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General*
- (c) *Meeting of the former Secretary General, Mr. T. Greminger, with Mr. Robert Rydberg, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, held on 16 July 2020: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/20 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Meeting of the former Secretary General, Mr. T. Greminger, with Mr. Sherzod Asadov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, held on 17 July 2020: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/20 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Signing of the OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan for 2020–2022 by the former OSCE Secretary General, Mr. T. Greminger, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ms. G. F. Waly, on 17 July 2020: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Chairperson*

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE, Ambassador P. Huynen: Chairperson, Belgium*
- (b) *Presidential election in Moldova, to be held on 1 November 2020: Moldova*

- (c) *Local elections in Ukraine, to be held on 25 October 2020: Ukraine*
(Annex 2), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1035/20)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 30 July 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



1276th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1276, Agenda item 5(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA

Mr. Chairperson,

As the distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America referred to Lithuania in his statement, please allow me also to say a few words in my national capacity.

I should begin, though, by emphasizing that Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement on this current issue delivered by the delegation of Germany on behalf of the European Union.

First of all, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Honourable Ambassador James S. Gilmore for remembering the declaration made on 23 July 1940 by the acting Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. Sumner Welles, on the non-recognition of the occupation of the Baltic States.

Indeed, today it is exactly 80 years since that declaration was issued. The people of Lithuania will forever remain grateful to the US Administration and to the people of the United States for their principled stance, solidarity and support from the very first days of the occupation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union in June 1940 – an occupation that had been secretly agreed on by the totalitarian Soviet and Nazi regimes with the signature of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret supplementary protocols in August 1939, and which was carried out soon afterwards.

For Lithuania, the Welles Declaration was, and still is, not merely a political declaration. It was the basis for a comprehensive policy by the United States of non-recognition of our country's occupation. Accordingly, Lithuania's financial assets and gold reserves deposited with the US Federal Reserve were not handed over to the Soviets, Lithuania's embassy in Washington remained the only Lithuanian State institution that was fully operational throughout the entire period of occupation, and the Lithuanian national flag continued to be flown at the Department of State during all those years.

The Welles Declaration also served as inspiration for the Lithuanian men and women engaged in the country-wide resistance movement and in underground dissident activities.

Secondly, it is not least because of our country's historical experience that Lithuania is such a staunch supporter of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia and all other OSCE participating States.

In this context, allow me to reiterate Lithuania's full support for the European Union's policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, and for similar non-recognition policies by other Western nations, including the United States. Here I wish also to recall another declaration mentioned by Ambassador Gilmore, namely the declaration on Crimea issued on 24 July 2018 by the US Secretary of State, Mr. Michael R. Pompeo.

The people of Lithuania know very well how important such non-recognition policies are. We also know that, sooner or later, they produce results.

We are confident that not only the people of the occupied Crimean peninsula of Ukraine but also the people of the occupied territories of Georgia will one day regain their freedom and be reunited with their compatriots. We will continue to uphold the relevant non-recognition policies until that day arrives, and we will always remain committed to supporting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of these countries.

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



1276th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1276, Agenda item 8(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to inform the Permanent Council that – in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Electoral Code of Ukraine, and pursuant to the relevant decree of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (the Ukrainian Parliament) – regular elections for the deputies of local councils and for village, town and city mayors are scheduled to be held in Ukraine on 25 October 2020.

In line with the 1990 Copenhagen Document and the 1999 Istanbul Document, allow me to extend, on behalf of the Ukrainian Government, an invitation to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to observe the aforementioned elections. Although the provisions of the Copenhagen and Istanbul Documents refer to elections held at the national level, Ukraine is inviting the ODIHR to monitor these local elections because of its high regard for the Office's election monitoring activities, and also because Ukraine has traditionally maintained constructive co-operation with the ODIHR in the electoral sphere. We encourage other participating States to act in the same vein.

The Ukrainian Government is committed to sparing no effort to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in accordance with internationally recognized standards for the conduct of democratic elections as well as with national legislation.

I wish to draw your attention to Part IX, Article 58, paragraph 3, of the Electoral Code of Ukraine, which lays down the eligibility criteria for monitors. In particular, no citizen (national) of a State recognized by the Verkhovna Rada as an aggressor State or an occupying State, nor any individual whose nomination has been initiated or submitted by such a State, may act as an official observer.

We look forward to welcoming the OSCE ODIHR election observation mission at the forthcoming local elections in Ukraine and stand ready to provide, in accordance with our national legislation, all necessary assistance to the work of the international observers.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



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

PC.DEC/1372
23 July 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1276th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1276, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1372
**DATES AND AGENDA OF THE 2020 ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Further to Permanent Council Decision No. 1011 on strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, in which participating States agreed, *inter alia*, to hold the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis in accordance with the mandate and modalities established by Permanent Council Decision No. 995,

Decides to convene the 2020 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on 19 and 20 October in Vienna, in accordance with the agenda contained in the annex to this decision.

AGENDA OF THE 2020 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Vienna, 19 and 20 October 2020

Monday, 19 October 2020

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| 9.30–11 a.m. | Opening session: Taking stock of the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction |
| 11–11.30 a.m. | Coffee/Tea break |
| 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Session I: Strengthening disaster risk reduction and management, including through exchange of knowledge and best practices |
| 1–2.30 p.m. | Lunch break |
| 2.30–4 p.m. | Session II: Improving early warning, disaster preparedness and response capacities |
| 4–4.30 p.m. | Coffee/Tea break |
| 4.30–6 p.m. | Session III: Promoting good governance and transparency in the field of disaster risk reduction |

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

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| 9.30–11 a.m. | Session IV: Strengthening the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources as a means to contribute to effective reduction of disaster risks |
| 11–11.30 a.m. | Coffee/Tea break |
| 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Closing session: Opportunities for strengthening dialogue and co-operation aimed at ensuring an integrated approach to disaster risk management in the OSCE area |
| 1–1.30 p.m. | Closing remarks |