
Chairmanship: Sweden**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1315th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 6.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AZERBAIJAN, H.E. MR. JEYHUN BAYRAMOV

Chairperson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/830/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/791/21 OSCE+), Portugal-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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/802/21/Rev.1), Kazakhstan, Turkey (Annex 1) (Annex 2), Turkmenistan, United States of America (PC.DEL/788/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/793/21 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/794/21), Canada, Georgia (PC.DEL/811/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Ukraine (PC.DEL/789/21), France (PC.DEL/807/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Armenia (Annex 3)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

Point of order: Russian Federation (Annex 4), Chairperson

Forced landing of Ryanair flight FR4978 in Minsk on 23 May 2021:

Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and

North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/801/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/790/21), United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, Norway (PC.DEL/795/21), Lithuania (PC.DEL/797/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/796/21), Belarus (PC.DEL/792/21 OSCE+), Ukraine

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 27 May 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1315
25 May 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

1315th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1315, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

We welcome His Excellency Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Permanent Council.

Azerbaijan is a country with which Turkey has deep-rooted friendly ties and brotherly relations. The Turkish people continue to stand by their Azerbaijani brothers and sisters. The special relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are guided by the principle of “two States, one nation”.

Your Excellency,

We thank you for your insightful address. We highly welcome your words of dedication for the OSCE. Your presence today at the Permanent Council testifies to the importance that your country attaches to the work of the OSCE. It is a clear indication of Azerbaijan’s readiness to continue engaging at all levels with and within the Organization. In fact, Azerbaijan is one of the most visible and active participating States in the OSCE.

We share your vision for our region. It is important to recognize positive developments such as the ceasefire, the end of the almost three-decade-long illegal occupation, and the rising prospects of normalization and co-operation.

The two statements issued on 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 by the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation were important steps.

One of the significant aspects of the statement of 10 November 2020 is the monitoring of the ceasefire. Upon Azerbaijan’s request, Turkey established a joint centre with the Russian Federation to monitor the ceasefire. The joint centre is contributing to establishing and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, Turkey continues to support Azerbaijan in its efforts to clear mines and improvised explosive devices in areas liberated from occupation.

We welcome the steps taken by Azerbaijan for developing and improving economic and transport connections. Turkish companies are actively involved in projects.

We believe that the way to achieve sustainable peace, stability and prosperity in the South Caucasus is through regional ownership and co-operation. Once there is peace in the region, it will be much easier to implement energy and transportation projects. Everyone will benefit.

We join Azerbaijan's call on the OSCE and its participating States to support the two trilateral statements. The OSCE can provide important contributions through its rich toolbox.

Your Excellency,

You have touched upon the opportunities of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE. Promoting and building confidence stands at the core of the second dimension. We should be able to utilize this dimension's potential for a positive and constructive dialogue.

In this regard, the OSCE's efforts in promoting renewable and sustainable energy and enhancing connectivity across the OSCE area deserve our full support.

We believe that the extrabudgetary project "Promoting green ports and connectivity in the Caspian Sea region" offers a good opportunity to enhance mutually beneficial economic co-operation in an inclusive manner among all interested participating States.

Furthermore, we believe that enhancing and strengthening the institutional role and capacity of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities would increase the visibility of the OSCE's second dimension.

Your Excellency,

In your address, you confirmed the positive and forward-looking Azerbaijani messages that your delegation has been giving here at the OSCE over the past months. On the other hand, regrettably, this constructive discourse has not been reciprocated by everyone. Confidence-building ought to be a two-way exercise. The issues of Azerbaijan that you pointed out today are pertinent. These include the release of maps of mined areas and clarifying the whereabouts of missing Azerbaijanis.

We believe that now is the time to turn the page and try to be part of a solution. It is difficult but can be done. Turkey has expressed its vision for the future of the region several times. Everyone will benefit from peace, stability and economic development in our region.

In closing, we thank you again Foreign Minister for your address and wish you every success in your work.

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/1315
25 May 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1315th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1315, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

We have just witnessed yet another exhaustively long statement by the distinguished Armenian representative repeating his country's policy based on disinformation, distortion and deception.

We regret the continuation of poisonous discourse and enmity here at the OSCE.

As we have replied to these allegations many times, I will not take up the precious time of the members of the Permanent Council by repeating myself. Despite these incitements, we will continue to maintain our positive and constructive approach.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



1315th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1315, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to begin my statement by informing the Permanent Council that a few hours ago the Azerbaijani armed forces – which have been encroaching on the sovereign territory of Armenia since 12 May, thereby violating its territorial integrity – opened fire on the positions of the Armenian armed forces deployed in the Vardenis region of Gegharkunik Province, Armenia, killing Junior Sergeant Gevorg Khurshudyan. That, apparently, is how we are meant to interpret the Azerbaijani concept of “peace” that Foreign Minister Bayramov talked about earlier today. And it is apparently also how Azerbaijan envisages the process of border demarcation and delimitation. Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for this provocation and any further escalation of the situation. We will continue to keep the delegations informed of the consequences of this highly provocative act by Azerbaijan on Armenian sovereign territory.

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to observe that while listening to the statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan my delegation could not find anything new, except that the old false narratives had been laced with further concocted mirroring allegations and accusations in an attempt to counter the fact-based statements of Armenia.

Today’s special meeting of the Permanent Council has been convened in connection with the visit to Vienna by the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan – a country that has consistently violated, and continues to violate, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and international humanitarian law; a country that has resorted to the use of force, invaded the sovereign territory of another OSCE participating State, brutally tortured and executed prisoners of war and civilian captives, subjected them to inhuman and degrading treatment, destroyed the Armenian religious and cultural heritage, and perpetrated mass atrocities, including the complete ethnic cleansing of the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh under its control. This list of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law is by no means exhaustive. Obviously, the purpose of the Minister’s appearance here today is to whitewash Azerbaijan’s crimes, try to improve its image and portray Azerbaijan as a country that allegedly strives for peace and stability in the region.

Madam Chairperson,

On 27 September 2020, Azerbaijan launched a war of aggression against the Republic of Artsakh with the direct support and involvement of Turkey and Turkish-affiliated foreign terrorist fighters relocated from Syria and elsewhere. Azerbaijan's aggression was well planned and prepared not only from a military and diplomatic perspective but also in terms of information warfare. Any reference by Azerbaijan to a so-called counterattack is, therefore, an absolute lie. The statement by the President of Azerbaijan at the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September 2020, which was full of hatred and clear manifestations of genocidal intent against the Armenian people, became a diplomatic "green light" for this reckless aggression. Moreover, a few days before the attack, he publicly stated that negotiations were "virtually non-existent" and that the territories would be "returned" to Azerbaijan "by all means". He also claimed that "international law does not work in today's world" and that "international treaties are just a piece of paper, having no value."

For many years, Azerbaijan did not even hide the fact that its strategic goal was to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force, which is why the Azerbaijani side had always maintained tensions along the line of contact and the Armenia-Azerbaijan State border, constantly violating the ceasefire and organizing armed provocations and acts of sabotage. The Azerbaijani President often publicly criticized the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, openly resorting to blackmail and threats. Two days before the start of the aggression, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence rejected a request by the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to organize ceasefire monitoring along the line of contact. Azerbaijan also made other preparations for war, such as closing air corridors, calling up reservists, requisitioning civilian vehicles for military use, and so on.

During the 44-day war, Azerbaijan and Turkey – in clear defiance of their international obligations and OSCE commitments, and despite three ceasefire agreements brokered by Russia, France and the United States of America – continued their joint offensive using tanks, combat helicopters and aircraft, heavy artillery, unmanned aerial vehicles, missiles and multiple rocket launchers, and prohibited cluster and white phosphorus munitions. Moreover, Turkish F-16 fighter jets and Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 combat drones, deployed in Azerbaijan under the pretext of a joint Turkish-Azerbaijani military exercise, were actively used as well.

Azerbaijan's aggression was accompanied by numerous gross violations of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflict, including mass atrocities and war crimes; the deliberate targeting of civilian settlements and critical infrastructure, hospitals, religious sites and monuments; the use of banned cluster and white phosphorus munitions; and brutal and arbitrary killings of civilian captives and prisoners of war, including ISIS-style beheadings, inhuman and degrading treatment of captured Armenians, and the mutilation of dead bodies.

As a result of Azerbaijan's aggression against Artsakh, 72 civilians were killed, of whom 31 were killed in captivity. A preliminary forensic examination of the bodies revealed clear evidence and traces of torture, stabbing, beheading and shooting at close range. Moreover, 163 civilians received injuries of varying severity, including injuries that imply lifelong disability. More than 130,000 civilians have been displaced.

During their aggression, the Azerbaijani military also attacked the positions of the Armenian armed forces in the area of the town of Vardenis in eastern Armenia, shelling adjacent villages and settlements by means of unmanned aerial vehicles and artillery fire. On 1 October, as a result of the use of combat drones against the villages of Shatvan and Mets Masrik in the Gegharkunik Province of Armenia, one civilian was killed and two were injured, while several civilian houses were burned down. Drone strikes also left a 14-year-old teenager seriously wounded.

As a result of the war, material damage has been caused to 160 Armenian settlements and, inside or near these, to approximately 13,100 private buildings and plots of land, 2,000 items of movable property, and 2,700 infrastructure facilities and other civilian objects.

Amnesty International's crisis response experts identified Israeli-made cluster munitions – specifically M095 DPICM-type sub-munitions – being used by the Azerbaijani armed forces. The House of Culture in the city of Shushi was reportedly destroyed by an Israeli-made long-range quasi-ballistic missile. The Holy Saviour (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in Shushi was deliberately targeted with high-precision weapons twice during the same day.

Dear colleagues,

From the very beginning of the 44-day war of aggression, Turkey provided Azerbaijan with unreserved political and military support. Shortly after the start of Azerbaijan's aggression, President Erdoğan of Turkey conveyed his country's unilateral support for Azerbaijan based on the concept of "one nation, two States". He went even further, claiming that Armenia was the main threat to peace and security in the region.

In addition, the Turkish Foreign Minister stated that Turkey was prepared to support Azerbaijan not only at the negotiating table, but also on the battlefield. It should also be noted that all of Azerbaijan's military operations were carried out under the co-ordination of the Turkish military and using military equipment and weapons provided by Turkey. The total number of Turkish military personnel stationed in Azerbaijan at that time amounted to 600, including a tactical group of 200 soldiers and 50 officers stationed in Nakhijevan; 90 military advisers in Baku; a tactical flight group of 120 personnel at the Gabala air base; 20 operators of unmanned aerial vehicles at Dallyar airport; 50 officers at Yevlakh airport, 50 officers in the Fourth Army Corps and 20 officers at the naval base and the military academy in Baku. In addition, in the second half of October 2020, a Turkish special forces brigade consisting of up to 1,200 personnel with specialized training in the conduct of combat operations in mountainous terrain was sent to Azerbaijan. Major General Bahtiyar Ersay, Chief of the Operations Directorate of the Turkish Land Forces, was directly involved in the planning of military operations and personally supervised the Azerbaijani General Staff during the entire operation against Artsakh. Lieutenant General Şeref Öngay, Commander of the Third Field Army of the Turkish Land Forces, and other Turkish generals oversaw joint Turkish-Azerbaijani offensive operations. Major General Göksel Kahya of the Turkish Air Force co-ordinated all flights of the Bayraktar TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles. All operational intelligence information obtained with the help of unmanned aerial vehicles was transferred to the command centre in Turkey.

Furthermore, Turkey recruited and transferred over 4,000 foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists to Azerbaijan to fight against Armenia and Artsakh. Despite constant denials by

Turkey and Azerbaijan, numerous Syrian mercenaries spoke to Reuters, *The Guardian*, the BBC and many other reputable media outlets about how they had been recruited for that purpose. According to various reports, terrorist organizations and groups such as the Al-Nusra Front, the Hamza Division and the Sultan Murad Division, all of which are on the United Nations list of terrorist organizations, fought alongside the Azerbaijani army.

The Artsakh Defence Army captured at least two Syrian terrorist fighters who admitted that they had been recruited by Turkey to fight against the “infidels”, and that they had been promised a monthly salary of 2,000 US dollars, with an additional bounty of 100 dollars in reward for each severed head of an “infidel”.

In a statement by the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, issued on 11 November 2020, it was confirmed that “the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey’s assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the frontline.”

Madam Chairperson,

Azerbaijan’s war of aggression against Artsakh was accompanied by numerous war crimes, including the deliberate targeting of civilian settlements and critical infrastructure, hospitals, religious sites and monuments, and the use of prohibited cluster and white phosphorus munitions.

During the war, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, pointed out that the continued indiscriminate attacks in populated areas of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, which were being conducted in contravention of international humanitarian law, might well constitute war crimes. Indeed, the execution of two Armenians in the town of Hadrut, captured by the Azerbaijani military, was assessed by the Commissioner as tantamount to a war crime. The European Court of Human Rights, through its relevant decisions on the application of interim measures against Azerbaijan and Turkey, confirmed that these two States were responsible for the aggression and war crimes perpetrated, and also for the violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, specifically of Article 2 (on the right to life) and Article 3 (on the prohibition of torture).

Eighteen-year-old Erik Mkhitaryan was killed in Azerbaijani captivity after the end of the hostilities. This was the second barbaric killing of a prisoner of war perpetrated by the Azerbaijani side. The first was the murder of Arsen Gharakhanyan, a father of four, whose body was found on 18 January in the Azerbaijani-occupied Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, 17 Armenian prisoners of war and civilians were tortured and arbitrarily killed in Azerbaijani captivity. Twelve of them were civilians, including four women. These extrajudicial killings clearly indicate that the chances of survival of any Armenian in Azerbaijani captivity are minimal.

The Azerbaijani authorities continue their attempts to present the Armenian prisoners of war as “terrorists” and to institute criminal proceedings against them in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and paragraph 8 of the trilateral statement of

9 November 2020 on a ceasefire. In addition, Azerbaijan is concealing the exact number of prisoners of war and refuses to provide a full list to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Court of Human Rights. The Court recently notified the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers of Azerbaijan's failure to comply with the deadlines set by the Court for the submission of information. Interim measures are currently in force in relation to 188 Armenians captured by Azerbaijan. The claim by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan that there are no women of Armenian origin in Azerbaijani custody is highly questionable and alarming, since, according to our information, several Armenian women are still being held in Azerbaijan, including 76-year-old Elsa Sargsyan and mother and daughter Varya and Anahit Tunyan, all three of whom are residents of the currently occupied Hadrut region of Artsakh.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, together with several experts on enforced or involuntary disappearances, emphasized that "everyone deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the conflict should be returned to their homes, and [the] relatives of those killed must be able to receive the mortal remains of their loved ones", as stipulated in the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. They also expressed their concern over the reported cases of extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, torture, ill-treatment, and desecration of the dead.

Madam Chairperson,

On 9 November, the Prime Minister of Armenia joined statement on the cessation of hostilities and the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces to Nagorno-Karabakh. The document was aimed at establishing a ceasefire and ensuring security in the region. Unfortunately, the provisions of the trilateral statement were subsequently violated in a blatant manner by Azerbaijan.

On 11 November, ten Armenian citizens went missing while they were in Nagorno-Karabakh on a humanitarian mission. Armenia filed an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights requesting the application of interim measures against Azerbaijan. Subsequently, the Court applied such measures, urging Azerbaijan to ensure respect for the rights of captives under the European Convention on Human Rights and to provide them with the necessary and appropriate treatment. The Court also requested information about the ten Armenian citizens abducted on 11 November.

A month after the establishment of the ceasefire, Azerbaijan launched a military operation in the direction of the villages of Khtsaberd and Hin Tagher in the Hadrut region of the Republic of Artsakh. As a result, Azerbaijan captured 64 Armenian soldiers in gross violation of its commitments under the trilateral statement. Seeking to justify its actions in Hadrut, Azerbaijan attempted to shift the blame on to Armenia by invoking a groundless narrative concerning a fake "anti-terrorist operation" and a "sabotage group" allegedly deployed by Armenia; it then instituted criminal proceedings against the individuals concerned.

This order by the President of Azerbaijan to fabricate criminal cases on the basis of trumped-up charges and illegally obtained confessions resembles the case of travel blogger Alexander Lapshin, who was arbitrarily arrested in Minsk at the request of the President of

Azerbaijan and extradited to Baku, where he barely survived torture and an assassination attempt while in prison. The European Court of Human Rights, in a recent judgment, found the Azerbaijani authorities guilty of torture and the attempted murder of Mr. Lapshin in a Baku prison. This case is quite indicative in that it shows how the judicial system of Azerbaijan actually functions, and that the system can institute criminal proceedings *ad libitum* at the request of its political masters.

The ongoing charade of the criminal prosecution against Lyudvik Mkrtychyan and Atyosha Khosrovyan, who were captured during the recent aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh, falls within precisely the same logic. Under international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949, both men are considered prisoners of war and should have been immediately released after the cessation of the hostilities. Yet, Azerbaijan has brought sham criminal charges against them, thereby openly violating both the norms of international humanitarian law and its obligations under the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020.

Madam Chairperson,

The long list of Azerbaijan's violations of international humanitarian law and the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 on a ceasefire has recently expanded further. Azerbaijan is currently engaged in the demolition of houses and other buildings in the occupied territories of Artsakh. It is beyond any doubt that, through such carefully planned criminal acts, Azerbaijan seeks to exclude any possibility of a safe and dignified return of Armenian internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes, thereby also violating paragraph 7 of the trilateral statement, which reads: "Internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent areas under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees."

On 20 April, in gross violation of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020, the Azerbaijani armed forces opened small arms fire on Stepanakert, the capital of Artsakh, and on the villages of Shosh and Mkhitarashen in the Askeran region of Artsakh. They also tried to advance in the direction of the village of Nor Ghazanchi in the Martakert region of Artsakh in violation of paragraph 1 of the trilateral statement, which stipulated that the parties' troops had to stop at the positions held at the time of signing the statement.

Dear colleagues,

According to a report prepared by the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh, at least 1,456 immovable monuments of Armenian history and culture have come under the control of Azerbaijan.

Immediately after gaining control over the territories of Artsakh, the Azerbaijani leadership, including President Aliyev, launched a campaign to appropriate the Armenian cultural heritage. They started claiming that all the Armenian churches in those territories belonged to the Caucasian Albanians, trying at the same time to present the Azerbaijani people as descendants of the latter, which is clearly absurd to anyone who is even remotely familiar with the history of the migration of Turkic nomads to our region. A case in point is Dadivank, an ancient Armenian monastery dating back to the ninth century, which, according to the Acting Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan, is anything but Armenian. President Aliyev

also ordered that all Armenian inscriptions be completely removed from cultural objects, and that the so-called original “Albanian” inscriptions be restored.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan have been showing disrespect for Armenian monuments and shrines, desecrating and vandalizing cemeteries and churches, including the Holy Saviour (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in Shushi. Monuments to heroes of the Second World War who played an important role in the victory over Nazism were also demolished and blown up in Shushi.

The Church of St. John the Baptist in Shushi, commonly known as Kanach Zham (Green Chapel), was razed to the ground by Azerbaijani troops and is now lying in ruins. A BBC documentary entitled “Nagorno-Karabakh: The Mystery of the Missing Church” revealed the complete destruction of the Church of the Holy Mother of God in Mekhakavan. The BBC reporter simply could not find any traces of this church, despite having certain knowledge that it was still standing when the Azerbaijani troops took control of Mekhakavan.

Under the pretext of reconstruction, the domes of the Holy Saviour (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in Shushi were recently removed. Ironically, the domes of this church were first destroyed by Azerbaijanis (then Caucasian Tatars) back in 1920. There have also been recent reports of 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.

The policy of destroying the Armenian cultural heritage and places of worship in Artsakh once again proves that the vandalism carried out by Azerbaijan is driven by ethnic hatred and intolerance towards Armenians.

Madam Chairperson,

The anti-Armenian rhetoric, hate speech and dehumanizing language used in public discourse in Azerbaijan, notably by high-ranking officials, constitute another area of serious concern that needs to be addressed properly by the relevant OSCE institutions and executive structures.

On 4 October, in a televised address to the nation, President Aliyev used extremely derogatory language when speaking about Armenians and, in particular, said: “Now we have shown who is who. We are driving them away like dogs! Azerbaijani soldiers drive them away like dogs!”

It is worth recalling that, in January, Azerbaijan issued a postage stamp showing a person standing on a map in medical protective clothing and “disinfecting” the recently occupied territories of Artsakh in what was, no doubt, intended as a reference to the ethnic cleansing of these territories by purging them of Armenians.

On 10 December, Azerbaijan organized a military parade – attended by the President of Turkey and other high-ranking officials from that country – to celebrate the aggression of Azerbaijan, Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists against Artsakh.

During the event, the Turkish President praised the words and deeds and invoked the spirit of Enver Pasha, the War Minister of the Ottoman Empire and one of the masterminds of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Leaving aside the moral implications of that parade, I should like to draw the attention of the participating States, and in particular that of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, to the statements made by the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkey, which revealed the true intentions of these two countries with respect to Artsakh and Armenia.

Racial and ethnic hatred towards Armenia and the Armenians was recently manifested in the opening of the so-called Military Trophy Park in Baku – a kind of “hall of fame” glorifying the aggression of Azerbaijan. This park is an embodiment of extreme Armenophobia and shows clear elements of Nazism.

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, expressed her regret over the “Trophy Park” and described the “dehumanising scenes, including wax mannequins depicting dead and dying Armenians soldiers” as “highly disturbing and humiliating”. She stressed that “this kind of display can only further intensify and strengthen long-standing hostile sentiments and hate speech, and multiply and promote manifestations of intolerance.”

Madam Chairperson,

The President of Azerbaijan continues with his aggressive and preposterous rhetoric on each and every occasion that presents itself, repeatedly making territorial claims against Armenia, in particular with regard to the Armenian province of Syunik, calling it “historical Azerbaijani lands” and promising to force Armenia to open a so-called “corridor” to Nakhijevan.

References to an imaginary corridor deliberately undermine the implementation of the trilateral statements of 9 November 2020 and 11 January 2021. I should like to stress that neither of these trilateral statements refers to any so-called “corridor” to Nakhijevan.

Madam Chairperson,

Early in the morning of 12 May, the armed forces of Azerbaijan violated the State border of the Republic of Armenia in the Syunik Province – specifically in the areas of Sev Lich (Black Lake), a major water reservoir of the province, and the mountains of Mets Ishkhanasar and Tsghuk. The Azerbaijani armed forces advanced up to 3.5 kilometres into Armenian sovereign territory and attempted to encircle the lake and gain a foothold in the area.

This was later followed by other incursions into Armenian sovereign territory, specifically in the Gegharkunik Province.

To this day, the Azerbaijani troops continue to be illegally present in the Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces of the Republic of Armenia in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia. This encroachment by the Azerbaijani armed forces on Armenian sovereign territory, which is in flagrant violation of international law and OSCE

principles and commitments, poses a serious threat to security and stability in the region and beyond.

The Armenian Government is trying to resolve the situation peacefully in order to prevent further escalation and casualties. However, the restraint shown by the Armenian side should not be interpreted as a sign of tolerance towards attempts to seize its sovereign territory. The Azerbaijani troops must unconditionally withdraw from the territory of Armenia and return to the positions that they held on 11 May.

Dear colleagues,

Any efforts at demarcation and delimitation of borders conducted at gunpoint, with the use or threat of force, cannot lead to sustainable peace or security.

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of a 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. There should be no 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 in the region. Durable and sustainable peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include defining the status of Artsakh based on the realization of the inalienable right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination; ensuring the safe and dignified return of the displaced population to their homes; and preserving the region's 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/1315
25 May 2021
Annex 4

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1315th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1315, Agenda item 2

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

Madam Chairperson,

It is worth recalling how a special meeting of the Permanent Council differs from an ordinary one. A special meeting is convened by the Chairmanship on a particular occasion or for a particular event. Today, this event is connected with the attendance of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the agenda of the special meeting of the Permanent Council concludes with that.

Colleagues who are today introducing a separate item under the current issues section are forgetting that for decades the practice of convening special meetings of the Permanent Council has never been accompanied by the discussion of any other issues apart from the main one. This is a matter of principle, a common understanding and an agreement that has clearly held all these years. I believe that the issue that a whole group of States are intending to raise could well have waited until the regular meeting on Thursday, that is, literally in a day's time. And there you can do whatever you like. But it is today that this confrontational item is being introduced, despite the standard practice for holding these meetings. I understand that I cannot change the situation but we still need to avoid turning special meetings of the Permanent Council into something just routine where different current issues can be introduced into the proceedings. I request that my comment on a point of order be attached to the journal of today's special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.