



1248th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1248, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1349
**TIMETABLE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Bratislava, 5 and 6 December 2019)

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be conducted in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure,

Adopts the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council as set out below.

Timetable

Thursday, 5 December 2019

- 10 a.m. **Opening session (open)**
- Formal opening and adoption of the agenda
 - Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
 - Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
 - Report by the OSCE Secretary General
- First plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by heads of delegations
- 1.15 p.m. Family photo
- 1.30 p.m. Working lunch for heads of delegations

- Separate lunch for members of delegations

3–6 p.m. **Second plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations

7.30 p.m. Official dinner for heads of delegations

Reception for members of delegations

Friday, 6 December 2019

10 a.m. **Third plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations
- Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
- Closing statements by delegations
- Any other business

Closing session (open)

- Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)

1.30 p.m. Press conference

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

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

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement.

Paragraph IV.2(B)2 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure states that ‘the decision on the timetable and organizational modalities for each Ministerial Council meeting shall be adopted by the Permanent Council not later than one month before the meeting.’

While the European Union welcomes the decision adopting the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, we regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for the Meeting, and in particular on which organizations to invite and the modalities of their participation.

Under the OSCE Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministerial Council, Paragraph IV.2(B)5 states that, ‘For each meeting, the Permanent Council shall specify the list of international organizations, institutions, and initiatives to be invited to attend and to make oral and/or written contributions.’ In the absence of consensus on this issue, the Chairmanship-in-Office should fall back on past agreed modalities.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization of future Ministerial Council meetings.

We request that this statement be attached to the relevant decision.”

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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

PC.DEC/1349
21 November 2019
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 the Russian Federation:

“In joining the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the adoption of the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Russian Federation expresses its deep disappointment at the fact that once again it proved impossible to reach agreement on a list of international organizations, institutions and initiatives whose representatives will be invited to the Ministerial Council meeting and will have the right to address the meeting and/or distribute written statements, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Unfortunately, during the discussions, it again proved impossible to agree on the question of equal rights for organizations. We note the attempts to establish a discriminatory hierarchy for them, artificially giving some a higher status than others. This contravenes the provisions of the Platform for Co-operative Security of the 1999 Charter for European Security.

The Russian Federation hopes that in future the OSCE participating States will manage to overcome their differences on this question.

We take the position that, in the absence of a Permanent Council decision on the organizational modalities for the holding of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, statements by representatives of international organizations during the Ministerial Council meeting should be possible solely in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE – only on the basis of an oral consensus decision by all OSCE participating States.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1349
21 November 2019
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Canada regrets that consensus could, once again, not be reached on the modalities for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, in particular on which organizations should be invited and on the modalities for their participation.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization of future Ministerial Council meetings.

We invite the Chairmanship to draw upon past agreed modalities to conduct this important meeting.

We ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and included in the journal of the day.”

**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 the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The United States wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The United States welcomes the adoption of this decision on a timetable for the Ministerial Council meeting in Bratislava. We regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for the meeting, specifically over the question of which organizations should be invited to speak to the distinguished participants.

According to the draft modalities, 63 international organizations, institutions and initiatives would have been specifically invited to deliver written comments at the Ministerial Council. Out of respect to the limited duration of the meeting, three highly reputable and particularly relevant organizations would have been invited to deliver their remarks orally regarding issues of common interest with the OSCE.

All OSCE participating States are members of the United Nations, nearly all (50) are members or observer States of the Council of Europe, and 29 – very soon to be 30 – are members of NATO. Another 21 OSCE participating States are NATO partner countries. The interlinkages of the OSCE’s mandate and activities with those the UN, Council of Europe, and NATO are vast and support regional security and co-operation. We would have benefited greatly from hearing at the highest levels what these three organizations had to say about further co-operation with the OSCE.

Instead, OSCE participating States will benefit this week from none of these 66 organizations because a few delegates believed that the insights on regional security and co-operation from the UN, Council of Europe, and NATO were of lesser importance than in trying to boost the credibility of an organization of just six members and subregional scope. Furthermore, that organization – in stark contrast to the other three – does not meet the qualifications of an OSCE partner, according to the commitments participating States made under the 1999 Istanbul Document’s Charter for European Security, paragraph I.32, and the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, paragraphs I.1-2.

When the Permanent Council fails to reach consensus on a list of organizations invited to attend and make oral and/or written contributions, we join other delegations in inviting the Chairmanship to draw upon past agreed modalities to conduct this important meeting.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization at future Ministerial Council meetings.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”