

Chairmanship: Austria**1137th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 16 March 2017

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 5 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Koja
Ambassador K. Kögeler

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson updated participating States on the selection processes for the positions of Secretary General of the OSCE, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FORMER
YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA,
H.E. NIKOLA POPOSKI

Chairperson, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (PC.DEL/366/17 OSCE+), Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/373/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/342/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/382/17 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/349/17 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/369/17 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/345/17), Albania

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Chairperson, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/47/17 OSCE+), Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 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 Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/374/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/354/17), Switzerland, United States of America (PC.DEL/343/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/348/17 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/364/17 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/379/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/346/17 OSCE+), Belarus, Turkmenistan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/386/17), Armenia

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO
UKRAINE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1246 (PC.DEC/1246) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision)

Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/356/17), Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/375/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/383/17 OSCE+), United States of

America (PC.DEL/370/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/350/17 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/367/17 OSCE+)

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/357/17), Ukraine
- (c) *Three years of Russia's attempted annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/358/17), Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; 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 Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/378/17), Canada (PC.DEL/368/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/384/17 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/371/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/351/17 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/359/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/360/17)
- (d) *Recent developments affecting relations between Turkey and the Netherlands:* Turkey (PC.DEL/352/17 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/355/17 OSCE+), Netherlands (PC.DEL/372/17 OSCE+)
- (e) *Violations of the linguistic rights of national minorities in Ukraine:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/362/17), Ukraine (PC.DEL/353/17)
- (f) *Neo-Nazism in Latvia:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/363/17), Latvia (PC.DEL/376/17), Ukraine
- (g) *Human rights defenders Ms. E. Urlaeva and Mr. A. Farmonov in Uzbekistan:* Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/377/17), Uzbekistan
- (h) *Constitutional reform in Kazakhstan:* Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/365/17 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/361/17), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/347/17 OSCE+), Tajikistan, Turkey, Belarus

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process to Moscow from 13 to 15 March 2017:* Chairperson
- (b) *Update on the consultative process concerning the work of the field operations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan:* Chairperson

- (c) *Appointment of the new Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana (CIO.GAL/39/17 OSCE+)*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Visit of the Secretary General to Skopje on 9 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Prishtinë/Priština on 10 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (c) *Address by the Secretary General to the sixtieth session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, delivered in Vienna on 14 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (d) *Update on the operations of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in Donetsk*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (e) *Address by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the UN Security Council Open Debate on “Trafficking in persons in conflict situations: forced labour, slavery and other similar practices”, delivered in New York on 15 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (f) *Participation of the OSCE Adviser on Gender Issues and the Project Manager for the OSCE survey on the well-being and security of women in the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, being held in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (g) *Side event on climate change and security in the Mediterranean region jointly held by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Union for the Mediterranean on the margins of the Union for the Mediterranean’s Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 14 March 2017*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)
- (h) *Evaluation of the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, to be launched by the Office of Internal Oversight*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/45/17 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 23 March 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1137th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1137, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1246
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decisions No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 on the deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.DEC/1117), No. 1162 of 12 March 2015 on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.DEC/1162) and No. 1199 of 18 February 2016 on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.DEC/1199),

Taking into account the request of the Government of Ukraine for the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (CIO.GAL/37/17),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine until 31 March 2018;
2. To approve the arrangements as well as the financial and human resources for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as contained in the document PC.ACMF/9/17/Rev.2/Corr.1 for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. In this respect, authorizes the assessment of 84,401,200 euros on the basis of the field operation scale at the time of billing, with the remaining balance being financed through voluntary contributions.

PC.DEC/1246
16 March 2017
Attachment 1

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 in support of the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), the Russian Federation takes the position that the geographical area of deployment and the activities of the aforementioned Mission are strictly defined within the parameters of its mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014, which reflects the political and legal realities existing at that time, and specifically, the fact that the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol are an integral part of the Russian Federation.

In view of the need to implement the provisions of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements of 12 February 2015, including those concerning the establishment of a lasting ceasefire regime, the priority attention of the SMM should be given to monitoring the line of contact equally on both sides. Hushing up or distorting information and presenting it in support of or against one of the parties to the intra-Ukrainian conflict is inadmissible. At the same time, it is expedient to increase the volume and quality of the SMM’s reporting on the domestic political situation in the other regions of Ukraine, human rights violations, restrictions on freedom of speech, manifestations of nationalism and the clampdown on the Russian language and culture.

We request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and attached to 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:

“The United States welcomes the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. In so doing, we reaffirm the interpretative statements we made upon adoption of the mandate on 21 March 2014, upon the first extension of the mandate on 24 July 2014, the second extension of the mandate on 12 March 2015, and the third extension of the mandate on 18 February 2016. These interpretative statements were made under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure, and we note they remain in force.

We remind the Permanent Council of the key elements of these statements:

The United States reaffirms its firm commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We note that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has a mandate to work throughout Ukraine, including Crimea.

We note that all participating States must co-operate with the Special Monitoring Mission and must take no action to obstruct its access to Crimea or any other region of Ukraine.

We offer our gratitude to all monitors, staff, and leadership of the Special Monitoring Mission for their dedicated service under difficult and at times dangerous conditions.

We call on Ukraine, Russia, and the Russia-backed separatists to ensure that the Special Monitoring Mission has unfettered movement throughout the entire territory of Ukraine, and to guarantee the safety and security of SMM monitors as they carry out their duties.

We stress, once again, that attacks, threats, and intimidation of any kind against SMM monitors are unacceptable, inconsistent with this mandate, and must end. Attempts to interfere with SMM operations, including SMM UAV flights and other technical monitoring means, are also inconsistent with this mandate and must end as well. Such acts undermine Minsk implementation.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1246
16 March 2017
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,

Canada also wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Canada welcomes the adoption of this decision, and we congratulate the Austrian Chairmanship for successfully achieving this timely result.

In this context, we wish to reiterate our full support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. As per the mandate we have just extended, we expect that the OSCE SMM will be granted “safe and secure access throughout Ukraine”, as defined by the Constitution of Ukraine. In this context, I would stress that Canada has not, and will not, recognize the illegal annexation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision, and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

**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 Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the OSCE participating States for supporting the request of the Government of Ukraine to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission for the next period of twelve months.

The Government of Ukraine regards the adoption of this decision as the expression of continued readiness of the Organization to assist the country in countering the severe consequences of the aggression pursued by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in breach of imperative norms of international law, the Helsinki Final Act, bilateral and multilateral agreements, which guarantee Ukraine’s territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and non-intervention in internal affairs of Ukraine.

We see as critically important the role of the OSCE and the SMM in facilitating a peaceful resolution in the Donbas region of Ukraine with full respect to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity.

Ukraine strongly supports the SMM in accomplishing its tasks relating to monitoring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Minsk agreements, which include the Protocol and Memorandum of September 2014 and the Package of Measures of February 2015.

We attach particular importance to further reinforcement of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine with human resources and technical devices in order to ensure effective monitoring and verification of implementation of the Minsk agreements, in particular concerning the comprehensive ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and border monitoring.

The OSCE monitors must have full access throughout Ukraine's territory, which includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The Government of Ukraine reiterates its original interpretative statement appended to the Permanent Council Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 which remains in force. The mandate of the mission covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and recorded in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**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 Malta, 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 on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the European Union and its Member States would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union welcomes the adoption of the decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We thank the Austrian Chairmanship for its efforts in facilitating this extension.

We reiterate our unwavering support to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We will not recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation. In response to the interpretative statement made by the Russian Federation, we reiterate that the SMM mandate covers the whole of Ukraine, including Crimea. We call on all sides to provide security and safety and unconditional access for SMM monitors, including to all parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and along the Ukrainian-Russian border.

The SMM has a vital role to play in the implementation of the Minsk Protocol, the Minsk Memorandum, and the package of measures for implementation of the Minsk Agreements towards a sustainable political solution based on the full respect for OSCE principles and commitments.

In addition, we look forward to a substantive assessment and discussion of the implementation of the SMM budget at the mandate mid-year point, to ensure accurate spend, in particular for monitoring activities. Improving efficiency and achieving cost savings must continue to be a cornerstone of the work of the fund manager.

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

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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