
Chairmanship: Sweden**1304th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 4 March 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered
Ambassador T. Lorentzson

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE ACTING HEAD OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson, Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro (PC.FR/3/21 OSCE+), 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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/284/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/255/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/250/21), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/246/21), Norway (PC.DEL/245/21), France (PC.DEL/270/21 OSCE+), Montenegro (PC.DEL/256/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE ACTING HEAD OF THE
OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO

Chairperson, Acting Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (PC.FR/4/21 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/254/21 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 Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/283/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/263/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/253/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/248/21/Corr.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/260/21 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/249/21), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/251/21 OSCE+), Serbia (Annex 1), United States of America (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) (Annex 2), Spain (Annex 3), Cyprus (Annex 4)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/258/21), 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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/281/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/277 /21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/252/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/261/21 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/274/21 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/267/21), Ukraine
- (c) *Seven years of illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/268/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/280/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/262/21 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/275/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/278/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/264/21), Norway (PC.DEL/265/21), Georgia (PC.DEL/271/21 OSCE+)
- (d) *Deteriorating human rights situation in Russia:* United States of America (PC.DEL/266/21), 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 Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/282/21), United Kingdom, Norway, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/272/21 OSCE+)
- (e) *Seventh anniversary of the reunification of Crimea with Russia:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/273/21)

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Moldova on 17 February 2021:*
Chairperson
- (b) *Address by the Chairperson-in-Office to the 20th Winter Meeting of the OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly, held via video teleconference from 24 to
26 February 2021:* Chairperson
- (c) *Briefing on the monthly priorities of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship:*
Chairperson
- (d) *First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2021 (on media freedom
and gender equality), to be held via video teleconference on 8 and
9 March 2021:* Chairperson
- (e) *Appointment of the Personal Representative of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office on Children and Security, and of the Heads of the
OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan:*
Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Update on the COVID-19 situation across the OSCE executive structures:*
Secretary General (SEC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+)
- (b) *Briefing given on 19 February 2021 to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Ad Hoc Committee on Migration by the Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings:* Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+)
- (c) *Participation of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings in the First International Seminar on the
Trafficking of Human Beings, held in Madrid on 1 and 2 March 2021:*
Secretary General (SEC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the concluding event of the first
phase of the Regional Consultation Process on Climate Change and Security
in South-Eastern Europe, held on 23 February 2021:* Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+)
- (e) *Launch events organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities for the Consultation Processes on Climate
Change and Security between Azerbaijan and Georgia and between Armenia
and Georgia, held on 1 and 2 March 2021:* Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Presidential election in Mongolia, to be held on 9 June 2021: Mongolia*
- (b) *Update on the latest developments in investigations relating to the assassination of journalist Ms. D. Caruana Galizia: Malta (PC.DEL/276/21 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security, to be held on 12 March 2021: Spain (also on behalf of Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America)*
- (d) *Implementation of provisions of trilateral statements of 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia and related to the opening of economic and transport connections in the region: Azerbaijan (Annex 5), Turkey (Annex 6)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 11 March 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1304

4 March 2021

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

1304th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome the Acting Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Mr. Kilian Wahl, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report. Serbia supports the work of the Mission, which was established in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and is therefore duty-bound to operate in a status-neutral manner. We especially value the quality reporting and follow-up on cases with an inter-ethnic component carried out by the Mission and its five regional offices.

In a context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and related operational difficulties, we commend the Mission for its efforts in assisting the local population.

Madam Chairperson,

First, on the Belgrade-Priština dialogue:

Establishing the Community of Serb Municipalities is an obligation guaranteed by all signatories to the 2013 Brussels Agreement, including the European Union. We are once again forced to state the obvious: agreements cannot be implemented selectively in accordance with the domestic political agenda of the authorities in Priština. Furthermore, recent statements from these authorities to the effect that the Belgrade-Priština dialogue ranks “only in sixth or seventh place” in their order of priorities, or at best “in fourth place”, and that it is necessary to “take a step back” in the dialogue clearly diminish the prospects for implementing previously agreed provisions and for continuation of the dialogue.

Repeated calls on both parties to engage in meaningful dialogue are inappropriate given that one side has already done so, while the other has not. Belgrade’s readiness to engage in dialogue in good faith remains unchanged.

Regrettably, the line chosen by the authorities in Priština undermines not only the dialogue but also the international community’s long-standing efforts to facilitate a post-conflict settlement. The threats recently voiced by these authorities that they would opt for a referendum on a union with Albania “if Kosovo had not joined the United Nations and become a NATO member and European Union candidate within five years” merely elicited a

muted reaction from the international community. I invite you to envisage the reaction that would occur if a similar redrawing of borders were to be advocated in another regional context.

Secondly, the situation on the ground:

The aforementioned contentious political narrative is also affecting the situation on the ground. Incidents targeting Serb returnees and their property increased in the reporting period. The overall number of returnees remains shamefully low. Identifying, let alone punishing, the perpetrators of these offences continues to be a slow and inadequate process.

The European Commission's "Kosovo 2020 Report" emphasized that "increased follow-up of such incidents by judicial institutions is still needed." The same report also referred to how the implementation of human and fundamental rights legislation was "often undermined by inadequate financial and other resources, [...] limited political prioritisation and lack of coordination".

Madam Chairperson,

Issues with co-ordination or resources are not the primary obstacle when it comes to ensuring respect for human rights. Deeply rooted intolerance towards non-majority communities is the core problem. As a step to promote tolerance, we welcome the Mission's efforts to foster people-to-people contacts, particularly among young people, journalists and women parliamentarians. We appreciate the assistance provided by the Mission and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to Priština's Faculty of Philology in finally re-establishing South Slavic studies with modules in Serbian and meeting labour market needs with regard to linguistics, translation, teaching, and intercultural communication.

We also value the Mission's efforts in helping to resolve property issues faced by internally displaced persons. However, despite some progress, it is clear that the local Property Comparison and Verification Agency is not an effective mechanism for the restoration of usurped property to the rightful owners. The local Ministry of Communities and Returns and the associations of affected displaced persons were excluded from the process to amend the relevant law.

Protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of displaced persons is impossible without safeguarding their property and housing rights. We encourage the Mission to continue engaging directly with the associations of internally displaced persons in central Serbia, to address their concerns and work directly with them on their return.

Madam Chairperson,

The report points to the continued desecration of cemeteries and historical monuments, burglary and damage to cultural and religious heritage. Local institutions ignore court rulings concerning the property rights of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The so-called Constitutional Court confirmed, as long ago as 2016, that the Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Visoki Dečani, a UNESCO world heritage site, is the rightful owner of over 24 hectares of

land in the vicinity of the monastery. However, the authorities are still refusing to respond to the request of the Serbian Orthodox Church to register its land.

We therefore encourage the Mission to continue monitoring institutional responses to such attacks and compliance with judicial decisions, and to publish a thematic report on threats to the cultural and religious heritage of the Serbian and other communities.

The arbitrary denial of visits of officials from central Serbia continued throughout the reporting period. Journalists from central Serbia were denied entry on 18 February without any valid grounds. This undermines the Mission's attempts to improve media standards.

Finally, let us consider the way forward:

Only a sincere commitment by all the relevant actors to tackling all outstanding issues in good faith with a view to normalizing relations and upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms can ensure reconciliation, coexistence and respect for diversity.

To quote President Aleksandar Vučić, who yesterday evening met with the European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Priština Dialogue, Miroslav Lajčák: "Serbia supports Mr. Lajčák's efforts and determination to reach a compromise solution. We believe that a compromise means that no one gets everything and everyone gets enough. It means dissatisfaction or only partial satisfaction for both sides, albeit without an ultimatum and imposed solutions."

Allow me in closing to respond to some of the statements we have heard today. Regarding the possibility of informal meetings with the Head of the OSCE Mission and so-called recipients of the OSCE assistance on the ground, we believe it is necessary to be precise: there is no established practice of inviting officials from Priština. There have been individual cases, and they were all contested. We stand firmly by our view that such invitations are unacceptable and go against the status-neutral position of our Organization with respect to Kosovo and Metohija, and that they also deepen the existing divisions within the OSCE.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1304
4 March 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1304th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK,
ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ICELAND, IRELAND,
ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORWAY, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND AND
THE UNITED KINGDOM)**

Madam Chairperson,

I am making this statement in a national capacity and also on behalf of Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. We will submit a final list of aligned States, which we request to be attached to the journal of the day.

Madam Chairperson,

We appreciate the outstanding work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to support the authorities of the country in strengthening their institutions. We are pleased to welcome Acting Head of Mission Kilian Wahl to the Permanent Council and look forward to meeting Ambassador Davenport in the near future.

We welcome the fact that the Mission is continuously adapting its activities to Kosovo's needs. We recall that the Mission is the second largest of the OSCE field operations and that it plays an essential role in Kosovo.

We recognize that, as a matter of good governance within our Organization, one of the best ways to understand how effectively OSCE field operations are implementing their work is to hear directly from the partners and beneficiaries on the ground. Therefore, we consider it essential to have contact among participating States and stakeholders, partners and interlocutors co-operating with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. We encourage the Swedish Chairmanship to make full use of the opportunity at the next report by the Head of the

Mission in Kosovo, and every other Head of Mission who presents to the Permanent Council, to organize such contact on the occasion of the informal meeting.

We request that this practice should be continued also in future.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1304
4 March 2021
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

1304th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Madam Chairperson,

Spain endorses the statement made on behalf of the European Union on this agenda item and would like once again to express its support for the important work performed by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo together with other international institutions present on the territory of Kosovo. We should also like to thank Mr. Kilian Wahl for his statement and activity report, and express our appreciation for the work that he is carrying out with his team.

Madam Chairperson,

Like other participating States, Spain does not recognize the territory of Kosovo as a State and is of the view that any action relating to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo should be in keeping, as a frame of reference, with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Achieving progress in the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Priština dialogue is a prerequisite for both parties to be able to make headway in their respective paths towards Europe. In that regard, the territory of Kosovo has its own specific framework for relations within the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Spain continues to believe that dialogue and negotiation are the only possible means for resolving the dispute over the territory of Kosovo, and wishes to make constructive use of its good offices in order to foster it.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1304
4 March 2021
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1304th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS**

Madam Chairperson,

I join other delegations in welcoming the Acting Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo Mr. Kilian Wahl to the Permanent Council. My delegation would like to thank Mr. Wahl for his statement and comprehensive report and to express our appreciation for the important work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, particularly during these challenging times due to COVID-19.

The Republic of Cyprus fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union, but I would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

The Republic of Cyprus does not recognize the 2008 Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. In this context, I would like to stress that any initiative with regards to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, should be consistent with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which along with the Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, provides the Mission's mandate.

Madam Chairperson,

The Republic of Cyprus supports the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina and the efforts of the EU Special Representative for the Dialogue Miroslav Lajčák and encourages the sides to continue working constructively with the Special Representative on all the principles governing this process.

I would like to request for the statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



1304th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 6(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on the implementation of the provisions of the trilateral statements of 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia related to the opening of economic and transport connections in the region.

According to the trilateral statement of 11 January 2021, the tripartite working group co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia was established. Paragraph 9 of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement and paragraphs 2, 3, 4 of the statement of 11 January 2021, provides the framework for the discussions in the working groups.

The first meeting of the working group was held on 30 January 2021. An agreement was reached to establish expert subgroups tasked to prepare proposals on restoring regional transportation links and ensuring security of the movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo in both directions. The subgroups specifically look into issues related to rail, road and combined transport, including security, border, customs, phytosanitary, and other types of control.

The working group held its second and third meetings on 12 and 27 February 2021 respectively and the fourth meeting on 1 March 2021 in an online format. It recommended to the competent authorities of the countries to review international treaties on transportation, including those concluded within the Commonwealth of Independent States. The working group will prepare the list and schedule of measures to restore and build new transport infrastructure facilities necessary for organizing, implementing and ensuring the safety of international transport in the region.

The promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through the development of efficient multimodal transport corridors is a priority of the Government of Azerbaijan and can contribute to connectivity and sustainable economic growth in participating States and the long-term development of the region. The implementation of the above-mentioned trilateral statements will benefit not only Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, but also other countries in the region and beyond, including our immediate neighbours Turkey and Georgia.

The post-conflict period creates unique opportunities for co-operation, mutual trade, opening communications, and creating new transport routes in the region. In order to facilitate access to the region the Government of Azerbaijan started the construction of a new international airport in the Fuzuli district of Azerbaijan.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council decision on good governance and connectivity and all other transport-related OSCE documents and decisions, to which we have agreed, provide a useful framework for co-operation within the OSCE in the field of transport. Participating States recognized that connectivity through transport and trade facilitation can enhance economic co-operation that is mutually beneficial and contribute to good neighbourly relations, confidence-building and trust in the OSCE area. Azerbaijan has always been of the view that confidence-building measures (CBMs) as a post-conflict rehabilitation measure have more chances of producing the desired effect of building confidence and trust and building peace. The OSCE with its experience and available tools in post-conflict rehabilitation, including non-military CBMs can contribute to peace and stability in the region.

In this regard, we call on participating States to support implementation of the provisions of the trilateral statements, including those related to the opening of transport and communication linkages in the region. The OSCE project on Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region, launched in June 2019, which aims at strengthening connectivity in the Caspian Sea region, can create new opportunities and benefits for the regional countries. In the post-conflict environment, with the prospects of removing obstacles and opening all transport and communication links in the South Caucasus in implementation of the trilateral statements, this project can expand its scope to all interested participating States and become an important confidence-building measure contributing to building peace, security and good neighbourly relations among the States of the region.

I kindly 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/1304
4 March 2021
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1304th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1304, Agenda item 6(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

We thank the Azerbaijani delegation for providing an important update to the Permanent Council on the implementation of various measures by Azerbaijan.

Economic connectivity plays an important role in enabling sustainable economic development and generating economic growth and employment. This in turn fosters the stability of societies and contributes to regional security. We support an open and fair system of trade, and believe that a multilateral approach and connectivity are essential to achieving economic development and prosperity. Over the past three decades, Turkey has been supporting various joint initiatives aimed at strengthening connectivity in its wider region and beyond. We should harness bilateral as well as inclusive regional co-operation opportunities.

We are glad that the OSCE provides an important platform to contribute to our connectivity efforts. We firmly believe that the OSCE has a significant role in the realization and implementation of East-West connectivity initiatives and we will continue to support the OSCE's efforts to that end.

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.

We support President Aliyev's proposal to form a six-party platform. We welcome the steps taken by Azerbaijan for developing and improving economic and transport connections. Turkish companies are actively involved in projects. Turkey is ready to give the best support for the reconstruction, development and peace in the region.

We join Azerbaijan's call on the OSCE and its participating States to support the two trilateral statements.

Turkey believes that the way for sustainable peace and stability in the South Caucasus is the regional ownership of regional matters.

Once there is peace in the region, it will be much easier to implement energy and transportation projects and everyone will benefit.

Furthermore, unhindered economic activity, transport connectivity and resultant shared prosperity can help the populations to regain their culture of peaceful coexistence.

Now there is a real chance for this and this has been our call. As Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu has stated last week, if Armenia acts in this regard, it is Armenia and the Armenian people that will benefit the most from the stability and economic development in the region. A positive step by Armenia will be reciprocated by Turkey.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.