

Chairmanship: Serbia**1055th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 28 May 2015

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Suspended: 12.55 p.m.

Resumed: 3.25 p.m.

Closed: 4.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Žugić

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE CENTRE IN
ASHGABAT

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (PC.FR/20/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alignment) (PC.DEL/722/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/692/15), Russian Federation, Turkey, Norway (also on behalf of Canada and Switzerland), Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/19/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/721/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/695/15), Russian Federation, Turkey, Switzerland (PC.DEL/712/15 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/688/15 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Ongoing aggression against Ukraine and violations of OSCE principles and commitments by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/714/15 OSCE+), Latvia-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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/720/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/697/15), Turkey (PC.DEL/708/15 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/705/15 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/706/15 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/710/15), Ukraine, Germany, United States of America, Poland, Canada
- (c) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/715/15 OSCE+), Latvia-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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/719/15), Canada (PC.DEL/703/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/700/15)
- (d) *Russian law on so-called “undesirable” non-governmental organizations:* Latvia-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; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/718/15), Canada (PC.DEL/702/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/698/15), Switzerland (also on behalf of Norway) (PC.DEL/713/15 OSCE+), Russian Federation
- (e) *International Week of the Disappeared:* Latvia-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 Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/717/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/699/15)
- (f) *Marriage referendum in Ireland, held on 22 May 2015:* Ireland (Annex 1)

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

Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan from 1 to 3 June 2015:
Chairperson (CIO.GAL/75/15)

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Head
of Conference Services (SEC.GAL/99/15 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Parliamentary elections in Denmark, to be held on 18 June 2015:* Denmark
(PC.DEL/709/15)
- (b) *Summit of the South-East European Cooperation Process, held in Tirana on
26 May 2015:* Albania (PC.DEL/711/15)
- (c) *Draft report of the Economic and Environmental Committee, as tasked by
Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 on prevention of corruption:*
Chairperson (Annex 2), Azerbaijan, Latvia-European Union (Annex 3)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 4 June 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1055th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1055, Agenda item 3(f)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Following a historic vote on Friday, 22 May, the Irish people decided overwhelmingly to change their constitution to ensure that Ireland would become the first country in the world to vote, by referendum, for marriage equality.

The referendum proposition that “Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex” was carried by a decisive majority – in broad figures, 62 per cent to 38 per cent on a turnout of over 60 per cent of the electorate.

The spirit in which the vote was carried is captured in the following brief quotations from the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) and Tánaiste (deputy Prime Minister).

The Taoiseach said: “With today’s Yes vote, we have disclosed who we are – a generous, compassionate, bold, and joyful people. Yes to inclusion. Yes to generosity. Yes to love, and Yes to equal marriage.”

The Tánaiste described the campaign as “profoundly uplifting” and said: “When I think back on this campaign ... most of all, I’ll think of the children. The children in every town, village, and schoolyard who will now grow up knowing their country accepts them – whoever it is they one day grow to be, and whoever it is they one day grow to love.”

While expressing respect for opponents and satisfaction at the dignified conduct of the debate, the Tánaiste described the vote as a “massive blow against discrimination” which proved that “a compassionate and well-informed electorate can and will extend civil rights when asked in a popular ballot.”

Ireland will take as inspiration the Tánaiste’s hope that “that spirit, that torch, is carried abroad,” and will work with renewed vigour to promote the values of compassion and equality reflected in this referendum result in our ongoing international engagement in multilateral organizations such as the OSCE.

The Irish parliament will now enact legislation to bring the decision of the people into effect within a matter of months.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1055
28 May 2015
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1055th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1055, Agenda item 6(c)

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear colleagues,

As you all know, Basel Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 on prevention of corruption tasked the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) to provide a report on options for strengthening the current OSCE capacity in the area of combating corruption and present it to the Permanent Council no later than 1 June. After extensive deliberations in informal meetings of the group of friends created by the EEC chairperson, within the Economic and Environmental Committee and bilateral consultations, in the view of the chairperson of the EEC, that even though there is a wide support for the creation of this report, within such a limited timeframe it would be impossible to provide a consensual report of the EEC by 1 June. However, these deliberations showed the importance that participating States give to this topic, which also represents one of our priorities in the second dimension.

Therefore, the Chairmanship has decided to continue with consultations in order to provide the report on options for strengthening the current OSCE anti-corruption capacity, followed by a CiO perception paper to be presented to the Permanent Council in due course, with an aim of providing a basis for further deliberations among all 57 participating States.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1055
28 May 2015
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1055th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1055, Agenda item 6(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

The European Union recalls that we were able to support the report as prepared by the Informal Group of Friends and regret that no agreement among EEC members was possible.

We support the Chairmanship's proposal to turn the report into a Chairmanship paper. Due to the lack of agreement among EEC members, we see this approach as the only way forward in order to fulfil the tasking of Basel Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 and to have a good report.