

PC.JOUR/1529 24 July 2025

Original: ENGLISH

Chairmanship: Finland

1529th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. <u>Date</u>: Thursday, 24 July 2025 (in the Neuer Saal and via video

teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 12.30 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. <u>Chairperson</u>: Ambassador V. Häkkinen

Ms. M. Neuvonen

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

3. <u>Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:</u>

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION

AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/801/25), Denmark (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/785/25), Canada (PC.DEL/779/25), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/772/25), Türkiye (PC.DEL/797/25 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/793/25), Switzerland (PC.DEL/789/25 OSCE+), Ireland (PC.DEL/791/25), Russian Federation, Belarus

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE ACTING HEAD OF THE OSCE

PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson, Acting Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (PC.FR/8/25 OSCE+), Denmark-European Union (with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North

Macedonia, Norway and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/794/25), United States of America (PC.DEL/774/25), Kazakhstan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/773/25 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/798/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/790/25 OSCE+), Germany (PC.DEL/792/25 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Tajikistan

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE DATES AND AGENDA OF THE 2025 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

<u>Decision</u>: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1509 (PC.DEC/1509) on the dates and agenda of the 2025 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) Increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in yet more confrontation in and around Ukraine: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/775/25)
- (b) The latest reforms and developments in the Republic of Moldova: Moldova (PC.DEL/804/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Denmark-European Union (with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/795/25), Canada (PC.DEL/780/25 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/777/25)
- (c) Sixtieth anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/776/25), Denmark-European Union
- (d) Threats associated with the irregular migration of people across the OSCE region: United Kingdom, Denmark-European Union (with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/796/25), Canada (PC.DEL/781/25 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/782/25), Türkiye, Italy, Hungary (PC.DEL/788/25 OSCE+), Ukraine, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/784/25), Denmark-European Union, Belarus (PC.DEL/799/25 OSCE+), Chairperson

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

(a) Helsinki+50 Conference: Respecting the Legacy, Preparing for the Future, to be held on 31 July 2025, and Helsinki+50 discussions on the future of the OSCE, to be held on 1 August 2025: Chairperson

(b) Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office (CIO.GAL/86/25 OSCE+): Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/82/25 OSCE+): Head of Conference and Language Services

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE, Ambassador A.-M. Callan: Chairperson, Ireland
- (b) Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Czechia to the OSCE, Ambassador I. Šrámek: Chairperson, Czechia
- (c) Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the OSCE, Ambassador M.-P. Kothbauer: Chairperson, Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/786/25 OSCE+)
- (d) Invocation of the Moscow Mechanism to address the ill treatment of prisoners of war by the Russian Federation amidst human rights violations and humanitarian impacts of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: United Kingdom (also behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland) (Annex 2), Ukraine (Annex 3), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/783/25 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/800/25 OSCE+)

4. <u>Next meeting</u>:

Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



PC.JOUR/1529 24 July 2025 Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1529th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1529, Point 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Madam Chairperson,

It remains deeply disappointing that the Finnish Chairmanship is openly violating the rules of our Organization and wilfully continuing the fruitless discussions of the Ukraine topic at an OSCE decision-making body. The inclusion of a separate confrontational item on "Russian aggression against Ukraine" in the Permanent Council's agenda is quite unacceptable.

Such actions are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)) and must stop. The agenda circulated by the Chairmanship for today's meeting has an overtly aggressive thrust as regards the Ukraine issue, is incompatible with the principles of the OSCE and does not give all participating States the opportunity to take part on an equal and non-discriminatory basis in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE by involving consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

This is clearly an abuse of authority by the Chairmanship, which is duty-bound to act for all 57 participating States and not for a group of countries that are aggressively imposing their views on everyone else.

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.



PC.JOUR/1529 24 July 2025 Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1529th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1529, Agenda item 7(d)

STATEMENT BY

THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECHIA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I will deliver an abridged version of this statement this afternoon. The full statement will be circulated in writing and I request that it be attached to the journal of the day.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Today, our delegations will send the following letter to Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Director Maria Telalian, invoking the Moscow Mechanism, with the support of Ukraine, as we continue to have concerns regarding violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law following Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, including with regard to ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war.

"Director Telalian,

With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in its fourth year and as Russia's illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine has entered its eleventh year, we continue to witness large-scale human suffering and alarming reports of violations of international humanitarian law and of international human rights law, many of which may amount to the most serious international crimes.

Against the backdrop of the full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine launched by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, a number of credible sources, including the Moscow Mechanism expert missions, the ODIHR, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, as well as civil society organizations, have reported that the Russian Federation has consistently violated the rights of prisoners of war throughout their detention and at multiple detention facilities within the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. There have been credible reports that the extensive and routine torture and ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war throughout their detention constitutes a continued systematic pattern of State policy and practice by the Russian Federation. Torture follows common patterns across different locations, indicating it is a co-ordinated, deliberate and systematic practice.

In 2022, 2023 and 2024, 45 OSCE delegations, following bilateral consultations with Ukraine under the Vienna (Human Dimension) Mechanism, invoked paragraph 8 of the Moscow (Human Dimension) Mechanism. The reports of the independent missions of experts, received by OSCE participating States, confirmed our shared concerns about the impact of the Russian Federation's invasion and acts of war, its violations and abuses of international human rights law, and violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine.

We remain particularly alarmed by the findings of the expert missions that some of the violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as the identification of patterns of reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law regarding the treatment of prisoners of war.

The prohibition against torture in international law is absolute. Parties to an armed conflict are obliged to ensure the rights of prisoners of war as set out in the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949 and additional protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. Prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity. No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind. Torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners of war are grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, and likewise war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The ODIHR's Ukraine Monitoring Initiative has continued to identify patterns of reported international humanitarian law and international human rights law violations related to the treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war including in its Sixth Interim Report of

13 December 2024 and its Seventh Interim Report of 15 July 2025. Interviews with survivors and witnesses attested to a continued practice of systematic torture and other international humanitarian law and international human rights law violations perpetrated against Ukrainian prisoners of war prompting serious concerns about the Russian Federation's failure to comply with the fundamental principles that govern the treatment of prisoners of war.

In equal measure, the OHCHR and the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) have reported on the systematic and widespread use of torture of Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russian authorities. In its March 2023 report, the HRMMU documented violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in 32 of 48 detention facilities in Russia and Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, related to torture and other ill treatment, dire conditions of internment including inadequate quarters, food, hygiene and medical care, along with restricted communication, forced labour, and a lack of access of independent monitors. Many were held incommunicado deprived of the possibility to communicate with family or the outside world. Russian authorities subjected Ukrainian prisoners of war to unlawful prosecutions for mere participation in hostilities, using torture to extract confessions and denying fair trials.

According to witness testimonies, there were numerous incidents whereby prisoners of war died in captivity due to execution, torture, ill treatment and/or inadequate medical attention as well as inhumane conditions during their captivity.

The OHCHR's October 2024 Report on the Treatment of Prisoners of War further documented detailed and consistent accounts of torture or ill treatment in Russian Federation custody.

Survivors have described the wide-ranging methods of torture or ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war, including: severe physical beatings; electrocution (including the targeting of genitalia); excessively intense physical exercise; stress positions; dog attacks; mock executions (including simulated hangings); threats of physical violence and death; sexual violence, including rape; threats of rape and castration; threats of coerced sexual acts; and other forms of humiliation.

Since the end of August 2024, OHCHR also has recorded a significant increase in credible allegations of executions of Ukrainian service persons captured by Russian armed forces, involving at least 97 individuals.

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (UN COI) stated on 23 September 2024 that it has evidence of widespread and systematic torture by Russian authorities against Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war in the temporarily occupied territories and in Russia. They concluded that torture follows common patterns across different locations, indicating it is a co-ordinated practice. In their March 2025 report, the UN COI again called on the Russian Federation to immediately end the widespread and systematic use of torture and other forms of ill treatment committed against civilian detainees and prisoners of war.

The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine is investigating the reported execution of 273 Ukrainian prisoners of war, including 208 who were reportedly executed on

the battlefield and 59 in the 'Olenivka' colony. However, the real number of those executed is likely much higher.

We are deeply concerned about the severity and frequency of these violations and abuses. We are particularly appalled by reported executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war and Ukrainian soldiers rendered *hors de combat* upon their surrender and by the desecration/mutilation of bodies. We are also deeply concerned with the practice of filming and distributing images of these abhorrent incidents.

Following grave concerns over the ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war highlighted, *inter alia*, by the HRMMU, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, the OHCHR and the OSCE, we call on all parties to the armed conflict to ensure that prisoners of war are treated in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

We recall that OSCE participating States have committed themselves to respect international humanitarian law, including the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949, bearing in mind that the wilful killing, torture, inhuman treatment causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of persons protected under the Geneva Conventions, including prisoners of war, constitutes a war crime. No prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the prisoner concerned and carried out in his interest. Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

We also recall that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law without territorial limitation which applies at all times and in all places. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited.

We call on the Russian Federation to end the torture and ill treatment of all detainees and ensure adequate conditions of detention including the provision of basic needs such as food, water, clothing and medical care. We further call for providing timely and accurate information on detainees' whereabouts and legal status, and for granting international humanitarian organizations, like the International Committee of the Red Cross, unfettered access to such persons.

Gravely concerned by the continuing impacts of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, and gravely concerned by credible allegations of the torture, ill treatment and executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war and soldiers *hors de combat*, the delegations of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, following bilateral consultations with Ukraine under the Vienna Mechanism, invoke the Moscow (Human Dimension) Mechanism under paragraph 8 of that document.

We request that the ODIHR inquire of Ukraine whether it would invite a mission of experts to build upon previous findings; and:

To establish the facts and circumstances surrounding possible contraventions of relevant OSCE commitments; violations and abuses of human rights; and violations of international humanitarian law, including possible cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, related to the treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian Federation;

To collect, consolidate, and analyse this information including to determine if there is a pattern of widespread and systematic torture, ill treatment and execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war and soldiers *hors de combat* and/or at detention facilities by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories and in Russia; and

To offer recommendations on relevant accountability mechanisms.

We also invite the ODIHR to provide any relevant information or documentation derived from any new expert mission to other appropriate accountability mechanisms, including the HRMMU or the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, as well as national, regional or international courts or tribunals that have, or may in future have, jurisdiction."

Thank you for your attention.



PC.JOUR/1529 24 July 2025 Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1529th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1529, Agenda item 7(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine wishes to express its full support to the important initiative presented in the joint statement of 41 participating States on the invocation of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism to address violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including possible cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, related to the treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian Federation.

As we addressed the Permanent Council on numerous occasions and OSCE institutions, a number of credible sources, including the Moscow Mechanism expert missions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, as well as civil society organizations, have reported that the Russian Federation has consistently violated the rights of prisoners of war throughout their detention and at multiple detention facilities within the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

We refer to credible reports which indicate that the extensive and routine torture and ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war throughout their detention constitute a continued systematic pattern of State policy and practice by the Russian Federation.

New information received by the ODIHR while drafting the Seventh Interim Report confirmed its previous findings on the widespread and systematic use of torture by the Russian authorities against detained Ukrainian prisoners of war. Ukrainian prisoners of war interviewed by the ODIHR pointed out that they were subjected to torture or other ill treatment while in detention.

Survivors have described the wide-ranging methods of torture or ill treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war including: severe physical beatings; electrocution (including genitalia) harm; excessively intense physical exercise; stress positions; dog attacks; mock executions (including simulated hangings); threats of physical violence and death; sexual violence, including rape; threats of rape and castration; threats of coerced sexual acts; and other forms of humiliation.

Russia systematically violates the law of war by executing Ukrainian prisoners of war.

The executions of surrendering Ukrainian prisoners of war are more than just barbaric war crimes. These crimes are not isolated incidents – they are part of a systematic and deliberate policy sanctioned at the highest levels of the aggressor State.

The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine is investigating the execution of 273 Ukrainian prisoners of war, including 208 who were executed on the battlefield and 59 in the "Olenivka" penal colony.

In 2023, 11 captives were executed on the battlefield; in 2024, 149 were executed; from January to June 2025, 56 have been executed.

Such actions are a gross violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, international humanitarian law, and the laws and customs of war.

Dear colleagues,

We sincerely appreciate that the overwhelming majority of participating States, following the consultations with Ukraine, supported the need to continue the documentation of Russia's gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and decided to invoke the Moscow Mechanism in order to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding possible contraventions of the relevant OSCE commitments; violations and abuses of human rights; and violations of international humanitarian law, including possible cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, related to the treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian Federation.

We believe that it will significantly contribute to ramping up the international efforts seeking the release of all Ukrainian prisoners of war from Russian captivity, as well as to the accountability mechanisms to ensure justice and hold to account the masterminds and perpetrators of Russia's crimes.

The delegation of Ukraine expresses its readiness to invite a mission of experts in accordance with the procedures of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



PC.DEC/1509 24 July 2025

Original: ENGLISH

1529th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1529, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1509 DATES AND AGENDA OF THE 2025 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

(Vienna, 28 and 29 October 2025)

The Permanent Council,

Further to Permanent Council Decision No. 1011 on strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, in which participating States agreed, *inter alia*, to hold the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis in accordance with the mandate and modalities established by Permanent Council Decision No. 995,

Decides to convene the 2025 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on 28 and 29 October 2025 in Vienna, in accordance with the agenda contained in the annex to this decision.

AGENDA OF THE 2025 ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Vienna, 28 and 29 October 2025 Venue: Hofburg, Neuer Saal

Tuesday, 28 October 2025

10–11.45 a.m. Opening session: Taking stock of the implementation of OSCE

commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction

11.45 a.m.–12 noon Coffee/Tea break

12 noon–1.15 p.m. Session I: Strengthening resilience and security by adopting an

integrated approach to disaster risk management

1.15–3 p.m. Buffet lunch/Side event

3–4 p.m. Session II: The importance of climate change mitigation and

adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk

4–4.15 p.m. Coffee/Tea break

4.15–5.15 p.m. Session III: Promoting an inclusive approach to disaster risk

reduction by actively engaging local communities and considering specific vulnerabilities and contexts

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

10–11 a.m. Session IV: Fostering innovation and the use of new

technologies in support of disaster risk reduction

11.15–11.30 a.m. Coffee/Tea break

11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Closing session: From commitment to impact – advancing the

OSCE's role in building resilience and response to disasters