

Chairmanship: Malta

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1479th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 21 June 2024 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 9.30 a.m.

Closed: 9.50 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. M. Cluett

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1483 (PC.DEC/1483) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Moldova (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Belgium-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), Switzerland (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision), Türkiye, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 4 July 2024, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.DEC/1483
21 June 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1479th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1479, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1483
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until
31 December 2024.

**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 Moldova:

“In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for six months, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The Republic of Moldova yet again deeply deplores that it was not possible to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for a one-year term due to the disagreement of the Russian Federation.

As the host country of the Mission, Moldova does not see any reason to reduce the duration of its mandate. We reiterate our strong will to have a regular one-year extension. And it should not be for any other OSCE participating State to impose an alternative duration.

Having in mind the importance of allowing the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue its unhindered work, even under such pressing administrative and financial conditions, this delegation will not break the consensus.

At the same time, we reiterate our call on all participating States to strictly follow their commitments in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06. That being said, we call on the Russian Federation to reconsider its obstructive position in order to allow for a resumption of a one-year extension of the Mission’s mandate after December 2024.

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

**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 Belgium, 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 Mission to Moldova, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The EU deeply deplores once again the isolated and unsubstantiated position of the Russian Federation to arbitrarily limit the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to six months instead of one year, which is the rule we collectively subscribed to and reconfirmed in 2006 at the ministerial level. Indeed, the Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 reaffirmed unequivocally that the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs. We continue to believe that a six-month extension represents a very heavy administrative burden for the Mission and we do not see any reason to render the functioning of the Mission even more challenging in the current very difficult circumstances, when the Republic of Moldova continues to face the consequences of Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

We commend the Head of Mission and her dedicated team for the outstanding work they carry out to implement the mandate of the Mission, which has continued in spite of the present challenging circumstances. We recall our strong support for the Mission’s work in facilitating engagement and regular dialogue between the sides in the context of achieving a lasting comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria.

It is essential that the Mission continues to monitor the situation in the Security Zone and on the border with Ukraine, reporting promptly on any incidents occurring there. We reiterate our appeal for strict adherence to the rules established by the Joint Control Commission in the Security Zone and emphasize the importance of respecting the Mission’s mandate and ensuring the free movement of its members.

Having in mind the importance of allowing the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue its invaluable work, and taking into account the position of the host country, the EU has decided to join the consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

We call on Russia to reconsider its position in order to allow for a resumption of a one-year extension of the Mission's mandate, as per the established rule it agreed upon at the ministerial level during the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in 2006.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today's meeting.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹, Albania¹, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, and Georgia, the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.”

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

**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:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States once again expresses deep disappointment with the Russian Federation’s unwillingness to join consensus on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for a full year. The United States recalls Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and reminds Russia of its commitment to that decision and to the principle that ‘when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for field operations should be of a one year duration.’

Russia’s obstruction of consensus on the one-year extension is another example in the catalogue of actions demonstrating Russia’s contempt for its own OSCE commitments. Russia’s blatant unlawful use of force against and violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and Georgia directly contravene the Helsinki Final Act and violate international law, including the United Nations Charter. Russia’s continued stationing of forces in Moldova without Moldova’s consent is a further contravention of its commitments.

The United States continues to value the critical work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to facilitate a lasting and comprehensive settlement process. We support Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and a comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict with a special status for Transnistria. The United States will continue to assist Moldova on its chosen path of democratic reform and further European integration.

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

PC.DEC/1483
21 June 2024
Attachment 4

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,

Regarding the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada regrets that one participating State has blocked consensus on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term. We have joined consensus on this irregular six-month extension, but are disappointed the Russian Federation has once again groundlessly and recklessly prioritized its narrow national interest to undermine the efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization, and broader European security.

Canada continues to strongly support the mandate of the OSCE mission in Moldova. We sincerely hope the Russian Federation does not plan to continue this disruptive path with regards to the renewal of the mission’s mandate and that the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova will be renewed for the regular one-year term in December 2024. This would not only be in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 but also with the wishes of the host country.

Canada greatly values the role the OSCE field mission plays to support Moldova in addressing the challenges and security risks it faces.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision.

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 the United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I would like to start by thanking our Chairperson-in-Office for your leadership in finding a way forward on this issue despite the regretfully destructive tactics by one participating State.

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Russia has once again refused to join consensus on this technical decision to allow the Mission to Moldova’s mandate to be renewed for a full year, causing significant disruption to the Mission’s work which requires stability in order to plan its activities effectively. We deeply regretted Russia’s isolated position in December 2022, July 2023 and December 2023. Our strong preference was then, and remains today, to extend the mandate for a full 12 months in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06. We are therefore deeply disappointed that the Russian Federation would continue not to allow the full 12-month extension that Moldova has called for and that the Mission, its staff and the people of Moldova deserve. We appreciate Moldova’s constructive spirit, and we join them in agreeing to this six-month extension on an exceptional basis. We strongly support the Mission, and want to see its work continue – work which continues despite the very difficult circumstances, including those created by Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine and which will be especially valuable in the run up to and during Moldova’s elections in October. We urge the Russian Federation to cease playing games with the Mission’s mandate and return to full 12-month mandate renewals going forwards.

I ask that this statement be attached to the decision and to 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**

By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Switzerland would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Switzerland regrets that one single participating State does not allow the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term.

We would like to recall our strong support for the Mission’s work and express our gratitude for its valuable efforts on the ground. It is imperative that the team can keep up its work without additional budgetary or administrative difficulties.

Taking into account the position of the host country, Switzerland decided to join consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

However, we call on Russia to reconsider its decision and to abide by OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, which clearly states that the mandate of field operations should be of a one-year duration when the host country of the field operation agrees.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today’s meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”