
Chairmanship: Poland**1365th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Suspended: 6 p.m.
Resumed: 10 a.m. (Friday, 1 April 2022)
Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński,
Mr. M. Czapliński

Chairperson, Mr. V. Kim (Governor of the Mykolaiv Oblast, Ukraine),
Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION’S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 2), France-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, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), Canada (Annex 5), United Kingdom (Annex 6), Switzerland (PC.DEL/475/22 OSCE+), Turkey (Annex 7), Georgia (Annex 8), Norway (Annex 9), Belarus (PC.DEL/485/22 OSCE+), Moldova (Annex 10), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, to Moldova on 24 and 25 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (b) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with delegations of Poland and the United States of America, held in Warsaw on 26 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (c) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. D. Kuleba, held on 26 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (d) *First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2022 (on “International co-operation to address violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law”), held in Vienna on 28 and 29 March 2022 (CIO.GAL/27/22 OSCE+) and second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2022, to be held in May 2022: Chairperson*
- (e) *Visit of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, to Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, taking place from 29 March to 1 April 2022: Chairperson*
- (f) *The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine mandate extension: Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/43/22 OSCE+), Ukraine (Annex 11), Switzerland (PC.DEL/476/22 OSCE+), Norway (Annex 12), France-European Union (Annex 13), Canada (Annex 14), Germany (Annex 15) (Annex 16), Russian Federation (Annex 17), France (Annex 18), United States of America (Annex 19), Sweden (Annex 20), Turkey (Annex 21), Georgia (PC.DEL/508/22 OSCE+), North Macedonia, Belarus (PC.DEL/486/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom (Annex 22)*

Agenda item 3: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

None

Agenda item 4: REPORT BY THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN
 UZBEKISTAN

Chairperson, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PC.FR/3/22 OSCE+), France-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, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/471/22), United States of America (PC.DEL/455/22), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/466/22), United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/473/22 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/487/22 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/482/22 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Norway, Uzbekistan

Agenda item 5: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/4/22), France-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, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/467/22/Rev.1), United States of America, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/462/22), United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/474/22 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/465/22), Turkey (PC.DEL/483/22 OSCE+), Croatia (Annex 23), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex 24)

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Ongoing crimes by Ukraine with the support of a number of OSCE participating States:* Russian Federation (Annex 25), France-European Union, Ukraine, Canada (PC.DEL/548/22/Corr.1 OSCE+), Lithuania, France
- (b) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters:* Armenia (Annex 26)
- (c) *Gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Russian and Russian-speaking population as the open challenge to the OSCE commitments:* Russian Federation (Annex 27) (Annex 28), France-European Union, Canada (Annex 29), Ukraine, France (PC.DEL/480/22 OSCE+), Lithuania

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Invitation to observe the United States midterm elections, to be held on 8 November 2022: United States of America (PC.DEL/468/22)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 7 April 2022, in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Point 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

We once again express our disagreement with the first agenda item of today's meeting of the Permanent Council announced by the Chairmanship. Russia cannot accept yet another attempt to unilaterally include the proposed topic, which is of an overtly confrontational nature, and considers such measures by the Chairmanship to be contrary to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and the guidelines for the activities of the Chairmanship-in-Office adopted by the Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002, in particular regarding paragraph 2(b).

We urge the Polish Chairmanship to adhere strictly to the procedures agreed upon by all participating States, to stop interpreting these at will, and to provide equitable, non-discriminatory opportunities for discussions at the Permanent Council.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

As the war drags on, Russia is committing ever new and ever more horrendous war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Russia is systematically undermining all principles on which peace and security in Europe rest.

Russia is sowing sexual assault, violence and murder – this is what the Russian world (“Russkiy Mir”) stands for.

Russia is shattering people’s dreams, plans and lives.

A few days ago, a photograph of an 11-year-old girl called Milena appeared in the media.

Like 60 per cent of all children living in Ukraine according to estimates by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Milena was forced to flee her home in quest of safety as the Russian attacks and crimes continue.

Among this large group, 2.5 million children have been internally displaced within Ukraine and an additional 2 million children have so far been forced to flee Ukraine.

To date, according to official figures, 143 children have been killed during the conflict, and a further 216 children have been injured. The actual toll is likely to be much higher.

Before the Russian war, Milena was into dancing and gymnastics.

But while she was fleeing the destroyed city of Mariupol, this little girl was shot in the face by a Russian soldier.

What wrong had she done to anyone? Was she just wrong for being a Ukrainian child? Fortunately, she is now recovering.

“The extremists are afraid of books and pens; the power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women.”

This was said by another girl – Malala – after she, too, was shot in the face in another part of the world ten years ago.

It is how extremists and terrorists act all over the world. They maim and kill children and women who are the future of their countries.

Just look at what the Russian so-called “army” is doing in Ukraine. They are targeting educational facilities, such as kindergartens, schools and universities, utility buildings, shelters, hospitals and food storage facilities.

There is nothing sacred for Russian soldiers and their commanders. They even destroy churches and Holocaust memorials.

This week, the menorah-shaped monument at Drobytskyi Yar near Kharkiv was attacked by the Russians.

This is a monument that commemorates the over 15,000 Jews who were murdered there by the Nazis.

Why does Russia keep attacking Holocaust memorials in Ukraine?

Significantly, the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation recently decided not to invite official representatives of Russia and Belarus to a ceremony next month. This is a timely and accurate assessment of Russia’s actions and barbarity.

Russia is going about its so-called “denazification” in a bizarre manner.

The Russian forces attacked the regional government building in Mykolaiv with a missile in the morning of the day after the 78th anniversary of the city’s liberation from the Nazi invaders on 28 March 1944. This attack claimed dozens of lives.

Furthermore, they continue targeting Ukraine’s cultural sites.

For instance, they destroyed the Shchors cinema in Chernihiv.

A well-known open trial took place in that very building in 1947.

The trial considered war crimes committed during the Second World War on the territory of Ukraine and Belarus.

It seems most likely that the missile which destroyed this cinema was launched from the territory of Belarus, like so many other missiles over the past weeks.

Our Belarusian colleagues can take pride in how they are helping to destroy historical memory that concerns their own country too.

However, I have no doubts that the building will be rebuilt in the near future and I sincerely hope that it can again be used as the venue for an open trial – a trial of modern-day war criminals.

In this regard, we call on the participating States to join a global “coalition of justice” seeking to hold Russia to account.

So far, ten countries have initiated – in their national capacity – criminal proceedings in relation to Russian war crimes in Ukraine. Apart from Ukraine, these are Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Norway and France.

Russia must stop counting on impunity.

Russia must observe the laws and customs of war in order to save the lives of civilians.

The Russian forces have to stop their use of banned anti-personnel mines, which was reported recently by Human Rights Watch in the Kharkiv region.

Russia must also stop the illegal activities of its naval forces in the Black Sea.

In addition to capturing and destroying civil maritime vessels and bombing the territory of Ukraine from the sea, Russia has come up with a new method of piracy, which is the use of naval mines as uncontrolled drifting ammunition.

Russia’s deliberate use of drifting sea mines turns them into a *de facto* weapon of indiscriminate action that threatens, above all, civil navigation and human life at sea.

Russia must be held accountable for all its crimes. One of the first steps should be a ban on the use of the “Z” symbol.

Esteemed colleagues,

We have all heard that the Russian military command has allegedly decided to “reduce hostilities in certain directions”.

However, we have to stay vigilant. We remember very well how on many occasions before its invasion Russia claimed that its troops had been withdrawn from Ukraine’s borders.

The situation today remains tense and challenging.

Russian invaders remain on our soil. They continue shelling our cities.

Missile and air strikes have not ceased. That is the reality on the ground.

Allow me to quote from an address delivered by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, two days ago: “Of course, we see all the risks. Of course, we see no

reason to trust the words of certain representatives of a State that continues to fight with the aim of destroying us. Ukrainians are not naive people. Ukrainians have already learned during these 34 days of invasion and over the past eight years of the war in Donbas that only tangible results can be trusted.”

However, yesterday in this very room the Russian delegation squandered yet another opportunity to demonstrate that their words about dialogue are not empty talk.

They decided to block the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, despite an unequivocal request by the host country. Their actions do not square with the calls for dialogue that we so often hear from them.

But the time for playing games is now over.

There must be real security for Ukraine and its people.

Russian troops must leave the occupied territories. Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity must be guaranteed.

Let me spell it out clearly: there can be no compromise on our sovereignty and territorial integrity – the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. No compromise at all. And there will be none.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

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

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

Mr. Chairperson, we are five weeks into Russia's war of aggression against its peaceful and democratic neighbour, Ukraine, and Russia continues unabated in its horrendous attacks against Ukraine's civilian population and infrastructure. There are deeply disturbing reports, including from the United Nations Human Rights Office, of cluster munitions being used in populated areas. The Russian armed forces have besieged Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities and are denying humanitarian access to these areas. Those trying to leave the besieged cities are being targeted, while schools, hospitals, and residential buildings are being continuously shelled. People are left without water, food, medicines, heating or electricity. The Russian armed forces are also forcibly deporting Mariupol residents to Russia.

The European Union condemns Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine. Russia must also urgently provide safe pathways, both for civilians to evacuate to other parts of Ukraine, as well as for those delivering humanitarian assistance. The wider international community also supports this stance. Last Thursday, a resolution on the dire humanitarian consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine was adopted in the United Nations General Assembly with overwhelming support with votes of 140 countries in favour and only five against. We also reiterate our call on the co-aggressor, Belarus, to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations.

Mr. Chairperson, deliberate attacks directed against civilians are war crimes under international humanitarian law. There is prima facie evidence of the Russian armed forces' indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas as well as on civilian infrastructure. In this regard, we heard moving testimonies from brave representatives of civil society from Ukraine or working in Ukraine, during the first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The European Union supports efforts by international bodies, including the OSCE, in the gathering of evidence and documentation of the atrocities of the war inflicted by Russia, and we welcome the tireless efforts and contributions of civil society and human rights defenders

to this end. We will spare no effort to hold President Putin, the other architects of this aggression, as well as their executors on the ground, accountable for their actions.

We also recall Russia's obligations under the international treaties regarding chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. In this regard, we categorically denounce Russia's unfounded disinformation campaign against Ukraine, a State in full compliance with international non-proliferation agreements. In the event of a biological or chemical incident, Russia would bear full responsibility. In addition, we will also continue our efforts to support Ukraine in defending its networks against cyber incidents, including by holding those actors that engage in destructive, disruptive, or destabilizing activities in cyberspace to account.

To date, the European Union and its Member States have welcomed almost four million Ukrainians fleeing the violence, providing them food, shelter, access to health services, education and the labour market. We are also grateful to the Republic of Moldova for all its efforts. We are paying particular attention to the plight of children and will continue to do our utmost to provide them protection and ensure their rights. In addition, we are taking action to address other global negative consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, in particular the Russian targeting of oil and grain storages, which are putting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people at risk. These cynical acts increase the burden on the Ukrainian people, result in a global commodity price boom and have severe consequences on global food security. We are also committed to providing support to Ukraine for its immediate humanitarian needs and, once the Russian onslaught has ceased, for the reconstruction of a democratic Ukraine through a Ukraine Solidarity Trust Fund, in which international partners will be invited to participate.

The humanitarian catastrophe on the ground inflicted by Russia's war against Ukraine requires urgent actions. We support all efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship, the OSCE executive structures and autonomous institutions in order to assist the people of Ukraine, including through the co-ordination and facilitation of humanitarian assistance and the support to safe pathways and humanitarian convoys. The same applies for the assessment of the human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's invasion.

Mr. Chairperson, we continue to strongly condemn Russia's illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014 and its recent recognition of the illegal self-proclaimed entities in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Any attempt by Russia to create illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Ukraine will be considered null and void. In this context, we condemn the conscription campaign of Crimean residents to be launched tomorrow, as well as previous campaigns, as they are another violation of international humanitarian law.

Russia is attacking Ukraine's statehood, including its democratically elected government. We have already seen examples of how democratic principles eroded where Russia has interfered in past years, including in the Crimean peninsula, where political opposition is stifled and persecuted, civil society curbed, journalists silenced and the rights of persons belonging to different communities, in particular Crimean Tatars, suppressed.

Moreover, Russia's external aggression is mirrored by increasing internal repression. We deplore a *de facto* media censorship imposed by Russian authorities coupled with the manipulation and disinformation of Russian audiences by State-controlled outlets in the

context of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine. This censorship has wiped out media freedom in Russia, as the Representative on Freedom of the Media recently pointed out. The Roskomnadzor's warning to Russian outlets not to publicize the interview organized by four Russian journalists with the Ukrainian President on 27 March is a clear example of the suppression of media freedom.

Furthermore, the recent amendments in the legislation in Russia have drastically compromised the safety of journalists, as correspondents face the prospect of yearlong prison sentences for reporting facts about President Putin's war against Ukraine. Due to these censorship rules and following years of systematic intimidation by Russian authorities, the independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* has been forced to suspend its activities. Nevertheless, the wave of resignations of journalists in the Russian State media testify that many journalists and others share a fundamental disagreement with the official policy.

We deplore the decision of the Russian Supreme Court on 22 March to reject the appeal of Memorial to reverse its forced closure. Memorial's tireless advocacy for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia has never been more needed. In addition, we praise the courage of the Russian human rights defenders and activists who have established the Council of Russian Human Rights Defenders and signed the manifesto denouncing Russia's ongoing pretextual "military operation" in Ukraine.

The European Union reiterates its unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. Ukraine, as any sovereign State, has the inherent right to choose its own future and destiny. The European Union resolutely supports Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence, and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. We stand by the people of Ukraine as well as the representatives of its democratically elected institutions in these dark hours.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Albania¹, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Monaco, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I thank Governor Kim as well for his remarks. I join the Chairperson in expressing my condolences for all those who have been needlessly killed by Russia's war of choice.

Today is the 36th day of President Putin's unprovoked assault on Ukraine. Five long weeks during which Ukraine's courageous citizens have fought a daily and hourly battle for survival, and for the sovereignty and independence of their country. Five long weeks during which Ukraine's military has held its ground and begun pushing Russia's forces back.

Yet even as Ukraine's defenders thwart President Putin's imperial delusion of installing a Kremlin-controlled puppet regime in Kyiv, the Russian Federation continues to intensify its brutal sieges of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol, and to redouble its assault on Donbas in an apparent attempt to carve out additional territory in south-eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia may be scaling back its military objectives, but it is not scaling back its barbaric tactics. Russia continues laying waste to Ukraine's cities, relentlessly shelling and bombing, and impeding urgent humanitarian access at the risk of starving to death those who remain in their homes. It is inhuman. And now we are starting to see more and more reports that Russia is forcibly deporting Ukrainian citizens to Russia.

Mr. Chairperson, the actions of Russia's military authorities in the last five weeks indicate the Kremlin is operationalizing a plan to seize control of the south and southeast of Ukraine and transform the regions into grotesque Russian proxy States along the lines of the so-called "DNR" and "LNR." The Russian Federation's plan, now that it realizes the people of Ukraine will never accept its subjugation, is apparently to clear the local population in these areas. I know we are all shocked by mounting reports that Russia's forces are forcibly transferring to Russia anyone who shows signs of resistance, as well as reports of rape and torture.

The Mariupol city council has noted Russia's forces continue to forcibly deport locals, confiscating their Ukrainian passports, running them through so-called filtration camps, and sending them to remote locations in Russia. Eyewitnesses have reported one such camp is operating in Dokuchaevsk, in the Donetsk region, with Russian Federal Security

agents interrogating the interned Ukrainian civilians about whether they have relatives serving in the Ukrainian army or police.

These reports suggest the forced relocations of Ukrainian civilians to Russia are systematic, pre-planned, and intended to be permanent. We are hearing that Russian forces are also confiscating Ukrainians' identity documents at these filtration centres, separating families, and taking away mobile phones. Further, Russia has refused to allow safe passage of civilians to territory under the control of the Ukrainian Government, indicating its intent to forcibly and permanently displace Ukrainian civilians to Russia. This includes children, women, and the elderly – in one case involving a 92-year-old woman from Mariupol. Documentation and the preservation of evidence are absolutely critical.

It is hard to grasp the fact of forced deportations in the twenty-first century. Nearly 80 years ago, the Kremlin ordered 200,000 Crimean Tatars to be forcibly resettled to the Soviet Union's Central Asian republics. The Supreme Council of Crimea finally declared in 1989 that the Soviet-era deportations of the Tatars were a criminal activity – and those responsible within today's Kremlin will similarly, eventually, be held accountable for the atrocities committed in the current conflict.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that it had documented the arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of 24 local Ukrainian officials in regions under the control of Russia's military and noted several instances that resembled "hostage taking." Many of us in this room had the opportunity to hear from the mayor of Melitopol yesterday, as he described the harrowing account of his six-day detention by Russia's forces during which he was held incommunicado and repeatedly interrogated at gunpoint by Russian officers. Unfortunately, his story is not unique. OHCHR also reported that 21 journalists and civil society activists who vocally opposed the Russian Federation's invasion have been detained in several regions of Ukraine.

Kherson's mayor has also described Russia's forces terrorizing the local population, detaining activists, searching homes, robbing businesspeople, and planning to require schools to conduct classes in the Russian language beginning on 1 April. Other reports indicate Russia's forces have gathered local community leaders and asked for information on where the so-called "fascists" live, by which they apparently mean those citizens who display Ukraine's flag or do not accept the Russian Federation's authority. Locals describe increasingly difficult conditions, with food deliveries blocked, houses destroyed, corpses left on the street, people disappearing. Cultural and religious leaders are not spared, as demonstrated by the Russian Federation's detention of Oleksandr Knyha, Head of the Kherson Oblast Music and Dramatic Theatre, as well as the reported abduction of Serhiy Chudynovych, a priest in the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in the city of Kherson.

The Russian Government also continues its campaign to silence all dissenting domestic voices, clearly terrified of what would happen if its own people knew the truth about the Kremlin's crimes against Ukraine. This week, as referenced by the European Union ambassador, under pressure from Russia's new draconian censorship laws enacted since 24 February, another respected independent outlet, *Novaya Gazeta*, led by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dmitry Muratov, was forced to suspend its operations. After the recent closures of numerous other media outlets, including Ekho Moskvyy and Dozhd TV, the people of Russia are now left without access to any major independent media. The general public's main

source of information about this war is from a government that, first off, refuses to call it a war, and second, feeds its people continuous lies and disinformation, such as the outrageous claim that Ukraine's troops are destroying their own cities.

Russian journalists who interviewed Ukraine's President Zelenskyy on Sunday were unable to publish the story in their own country without risking up to 15 years in prison for violating these new censorship laws. Silencing independent voices, including that of a Nobel Prize winning journalist, are the hallmarks of a totalitarian police State, and a sad commentary on what Russia has become.

And it's not just Russia. Belarus too is complicit. For almost two years, the Lukashenko regime has carried out a brutal crackdown against civil society. It holds over 1,100 political prisoners, denies its citizens access to information, brutally suppresses dissent, and now actively facilitates Putin's war against Ukraine. It is the Lukashenko regime that is allowing its territory to be used as a launch pad against Ukraine, and we assess that missiles have been fired from Belarusian airspace on Ukraine. The Lukashenko regime therefore clearly bears responsibility for the horrifying invasion unfolding across Ukraine.

Dear colleagues, I'd like to close by recounting President Biden's words in Warsaw last Saturday reminding us that no matter how horrific the Russian Federation's attacks in Ukraine, the oppressors will never prevail. As President Biden said, "Time and again history shows that it's from the darkest moments that the greatest progress follows. A dictator bent on rebuilding an empire will never erase a people's love for liberty. Brutality will never grind down their will to be free. We will have a different future, a brighter future, rooted in democracy and principle, hope and light."

We will help the people of Ukraine fight for this future for as long as it takes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to thank Mykolaiv Governor Vitaliy Kim for sharing the situation in his region, and to express our deepest condolence for the loss of life in his region, and across Ukraine. The cruellest impact of Russia's unprovoked war of aggression is the plight of the thousands of innocent Ukrainian civilians killed, maimed, and kidnapped at the hands of the Russian forces. And the thousands who remain in cities under siege. We have just heard a few of those devastating individual stories from our Ukrainian colleague. These are the people living the nightmare created by President Putin every day and every night. These are the victims of possible war crimes.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reports that the majority of the thousands of civilian casualties, as a result of Russia's invasion, have been caused by the use of explosive weapons, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes. These are weapons with a wide impact area, and whose use against civilian populations, as has been widely reported on, could be considered a war crime; as could the reported use of cluster munitions. According to Amnesty International, verified reports and video footage have documented numerous military strikes on hospitals and schools. Direct military attacks by the Russian armed forces on civilian targets are another potential war crime.

The bombing and mining of humanitarian corridors – humanitarian corridors such as those that Russia has supposedly agreed to establish numerous times, but then bombed – is also a potential war crime. There are reports that Russian forces have forcefully deported thousands of residents from Ukraine to Belarus, which is prohibited by Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and could also be a war crime. There are reports of Russian troops pillaging and looting in occupied territory, and robbing humanitarian convoys. Another possible war crime.

These are serious and credible allegations of war crimes. It is for this reason that Canada, with many partners here in this room, has made a State referral of the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court. As Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino, said on Tuesday, the "war machine" of President Vladimir Putin is destroying houses, hospitals and schools and "[i]n the face of Putin and the Russian military's

flagrant violations of international law, Canada will continue to work to ensure that they are held accountable for their illegal actions.” Canada believes in international justice and holding the perpetrators of war crimes to account, and we demand that Russia be held to account for its actions in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

The human rights violations and hardships faced by innocent Ukrainian civilians due to Putin’s military invasion are also numerous and were well-elaborated during this week’s Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, and in yesterday’s remarks by the mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, and journalist Oleh Baturin. I note that the Russian delegation refused to participate and listen to the extreme hardship they have caused with their war of aggression in Ukraine. My delegation and most others in this room did listen. And one story struck me as exemplifying the incredible resilience that ordinary Ukrainians have demonstrated in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. It was the story of a pregnant woman in Irpin during Russia’s short-lived occupation there. Due to the unavailability of proper medical care and the impossibility of evacuating on foot, this woman had no choice but to give birth in the basement of her own house. With the assistance of an Israeli doctor guiding her over the phone, she managed to deliver her baby completely on her own, without any medical equipment or supplies, and without anyone to assist. Mother and baby have now both managed to escape to a safer area of the country. This woman is yet another Ukrainian whose amazing resilience and resourcefulness, during what can only be among the most traumatic of situations, we must honour and admire.

Mr. Chairperson,

My colleague from the Russian Federation will likely again today attempt to deflect from accountability for its own actions and mislead us with disinformation, possibly by trying to claim it is the Ukrainian forces committing war crimes. Instead of making false accusations here, or setting up a domestic “investigation committee” clearly beholden to the Kremlin, if there are any legitimate complaints against the Ukrainian military – the defending military –, evidence to support such claims should be delivered to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, who is undertaking an independent and impartial investigation into the situation in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is the peaceful demonstrators in occupied cities being fired upon, the newborn babies lacking essential nutrition due to Russia’s blockades of food and medical supplies, and the brave citizens who fight valiantly to protect their cities under siege, who are suffering most. The longer the conflict continues, the more Ukrainians will needlessly suffer. We call for an unconditional ceasefire, and the immediate removal of Russian troops from Ukraine. When these two conditions are met, I hope we can then return to a meaningful dialogue here at the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. This week at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, we heard harrowing stories from Ukrainian civil society organizations about the human impact that President Putin's premeditated and unjustified war on Ukraine has created.

Our colleagues from civil society described how they took shelter in basements during the Russian shelling that has rained down on villages, towns and cities across Ukraine. Every day the human cost of Russia's indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas continues to grow. Tragically, according to the United Nations over 100 children have already been killed. I am grateful also to Governor Kim for joining us today and sharing the appalling impact of Russia's invasion on his region, including the recent attack on the regional administrative building. I offer the United Kingdom's condolences to all the victims and their families.

Civil society organizations also shone a light on the dire situation in Ukrainian cities that have been encircled by Russian troops such as Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol. In an effort to break the resistance of these cities, the Russian Government has stooped to new lows; effectively forcing a humanitarian crisis through constant shelling and by refusing to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to these cities. In Mariupol alone, local authorities estimate that close to 5,000 people have been killed.

Yesterday many delegations had the opportunity to hear from Ukrainian speakers about the appalling human rights violations perpetrated by Russian forces in the cities under their control. The Mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, described how Russian forces abducted him in broad daylight and held him in detention for six days, where he heard evidence of torture of other detainees. Sadly, there are many other Ukrainian local government members who have been abducted by Russian forces who have not yet been released. I would like to share the names of just some of them: Serhiy Pryima, the chair of the Melitopol District Council, Olena Plaksina a member of the Tokmak town council, Viktor Mariuniak the headman of the village of Stara Zburyivka, Mykola Masliy, a member of Kupyansk town council, and Oleksandr Medvediov, Mayor of Snovsk.

At the same event, Oleg Baturin, a journalist from Kakhovka, shared how he was held captive for eight days by Russian forces who told him that they wanted to take revenge for his journalistic activities.

I am deeply grateful to the Ukrainian ambassador for organizing this meeting and to the speakers for courageously sharing their stories from yesterday.

Russia is resorting, Mr. Chairperson, to these abhorrent tactics because they have not been able to overcome the determination of millions of Ukrainians who look to live in a free, democratic Ukraine. These brave civilians often march carrying nothing more than Ukrainian flags and are met by tanks and Russian forces who shoot at protesters. Local government representatives, journalists, priests, civil society activists and Ukrainian military veterans are all being targeted. Appallingly, there are multiple reports of sexual violence, including rape, by Russian armed forces.

I would like to pay tribute to Ukrainian civil society organizations and their courageous members for their dedicated work in shining a light on these atrocities. Their work will help to ensure that Russia is held accountable for its actions. The co-operation between the Ukrainian Government and civil society organizations is also an example to us all of how a flourishing civil society, which is free to speak its mind, enhances a country's security – even in the gravest of circumstances.

The people and Government of the United Kingdom stand firm and resolute in our solidarity with the people of Ukraine. To that end we have provided military equipment, economic support, humanitarian aid and supported efforts to ensure accountability for war crimes – including by appointing Sir Howard Morrison QC as an independent adviser to Iryna Venediktova – to support Ukraine's journey in seeking justice against the Russian Government's actions.

President Putin is attempting to hide the extent of the atrocities we have seen from his people and from the world. The Russian Government spouts a barrage of disinformation, they attack television and radio infrastructure in Ukraine, block free media in Russia, and they detain journalists. Now they are trying to put an end to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine's impartial, facts-based reporting by unilaterally blocking the extension of its mandate.

But, Mr. Chairperson, as the decisive votes at the United Nations have shown, the international community is not fooled. The United Kingdom certainly is not fooled – no amount of disinformation or feigned pretence at troop withdrawal will distract us from what is needed to stop the bloodshed in Ukraine. Russia must end this unjustifiable war, enable humanitarian access, abide by international law and international humanitarian law, withdraw its troops and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

It has been five weeks since the start of unprovoked, unjustified, illegal and illegitimate attack of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is a clear ongoing violation of international law, and which is – most unfortunately – causing immense human tragedy every second we speak here. It must stop.

We strongly and sincerely call for an urgent and permanent declaration of a ceasefire on the ground.

Like many other countries, my country is tirelessly working with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

Following the phone calls of President Erdoğan with President Zelensky and President Putin last weekend, negotiating delegations from the Russian Federation and Ukraine met in Istanbul on Tuesday. We hope that the ongoing talks will pave the way for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

Our country would continue to lend every kind of support regarding the process to enable the immediate establishment of ceasefire and peace.

Mr. Chairperson,

The humanitarian crisis is unfortunately being deepened as a result of the ongoing Russian assault.

In one month, over a quarter of the Ukrainian population have been displaced. These numbers are rising daily.

Some 13 million people are estimated to be stranded in affected areas or unable to leave due to the heightened security risks, the destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation.

Today, millions of civilians in Ukraine live in constant fear. Millions are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water and medicines.

The humanitarian assistance of the Turkish Government continues unabatedly.

Representatives of our Government, non-governmental organizations, and the Turkish Red Crescent are stationed along the border assisting the refugees who are fleeing Ukraine.

We also continue to support and facilitate United Nations aid operations launched from Turkey.

We call upon for the facilitation of the work of the UN agencies in the humanitarian field in Ukraine.

We regret that children are facing a dire situation. As the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child stated, it is estimated that around children have been killed, thousands injured. This is a crisis of children's rights on a massive scale. As reported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 4.3 million children have been displaced in Ukraine – that is more than half of the estimated 7.5 million children in Ukraine. This tragedy must stop.

Let me reiterate that we reject the ongoing assault against Ukraine. We strongly support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country wants peace, serenity and prosperity in its region. We will resolutely continue to press for peace and stand by international law. We will sustain to sincerely contribute to any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

We kindly ask that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We align with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. In addition, allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

As we enter the second month of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, we are facing the gravest humanitarian catastrophe in Europe since the Second World War.

The human toll of this war of choice is multiplying daily. Bombardment and shelling continue, leaving thousands dead and millions displaced. It was reported recently by the United Nations that 145 innocent children have lost their lives in this war, and more than half of Ukraine's children are now displaced.

The situation is particularly dire in the besieged city of Mariupol, where local authorities have reported thousands of fatalities and critical shortages of food, water and medicines.

We remain gravely concerned about the continual abductions and executions carried out by the Russian forces as well as by the reports of forced transfers to Russia of residents of the occupied territories. Only yesterday, we heard first-hand testimonies about these brutal actions from the mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, and *Novy Den* journalist Oleh Baturin; and today the Governor of the Mykolaiv region, Vitaliy Kim, told us about the scourge of war, including the devastating results of the Russian missile strike against the regional administration building.

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain alarmed by the environmental, nuclear and radiation safety threats emanating from Russia's aggression. We support the efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities. We again urge Russia to stop endangering these facilities, as such actions can bring dire consequences for the entire European continent.

Mr. Chairperson,

Along with Ukrainian territory, Russia continues to occupy Georgia's territories and takes steps towards their annexation. I wish to inform the Permanent Council that the so-called "president" of the Russian occupation regime in Tskhinvali announced yesterday that they have decided to take steps in the near future to ensure "unification" with Russia. We assess this announcement as yet another attempt to erode Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and strongly condemn it.

Dear colleagues,

Russia's actions are a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, including international humanitarian law. We join in the efforts by Ukraine and the international community to ensure, through all the available international legal mechanisms that justice is served for the crimes that Russia is committing.

We call on Russia to immediately cease aggression, comply with the order of the International Court of Justice and uphold international humanitarian law.

Georgia reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and for Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Norway aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Allow me to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Russia's aggressive war against a fellow OSCE participating State is causing the greatest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War.

The attacks on civilians are unacceptable. The damage and destruction inflicted on civilian infrastructure, including food supply and distribution systems, are truly devastating.

Mr. Chairperson,

This is both a humanitarian and a development crisis. It is both a Ukrainian and a global crisis.

Ukraine itself has been set back decades in its economic development by the conflict. Four million Ukrainians have been forced to leave the country as refugees.

The conflict will disrupt this year's agricultural production in Ukraine, leading to increased global food insecurity. Coupled with rising commodity and energy prices, this may fuel social unrest and instability around the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past weeks, there have been numerous reports of abductions and enforced disappearances of local activists, journalists and representatives of local government in areas under the control of the Russian forces. Yesterday, we heard the personal accounts of the mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, who was kidnapped and held in arbitrary detention for six days, and the journalist Oleh Baturin, who was arbitrarily arrested and held for eight days in degrading conditions. We were also informed of 29 other Ukrainian public officials still being held in captivity or arbitrary detention.

Not only are these actions cruel and inhumane, but they also impair the ability of local authorities to fulfil their duties towards citizens in their communities, to organize humanitarian work and to mitigate the human consequences of the war. They constitute a clear violation of OSCE commitments. We call on Russia to ensure that those responsible for such disappearances and abductions stop this nefarious practice and allow their victims to return home.

Once again, we reiterate that international humanitarian law, as well as human rights, must be respected, and that the civilian population in Ukraine must be protected.

The Russian aggression has long-term consequences for Ukraine. It is also exacerbating other humanitarian crises and undermining global economic development, peace and security. The best form of humanitarian assistance that Russia can now render is to end its attack on Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Turkey's role in facilitating talks between Russia and Ukraine.

However, first and foremost, we urge the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops and stop its aggression against Ukraine.

Thank you.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share most of the messages expressed by the delegation of the European Union. At the same time, we would also like to state the following.

From the very beginning the Republic of Moldova has condemned in the strongest terms the unprovoked and unjustified act of war launched by Russia against Ukraine. This act constitutes a blatant breach of international law and a serious violation of fundamental principles of our Organization.

The war has created a major humanitarian crisis that reached unimaginable proportions. Close to a quarter of Ukraine population had to leave their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country or abroad.

In the last weeks we all have witnessed a violent shelling on civilian infrastructure resulting in loss of innocent lives and major destruction. We strongly condemn these actions. They constitute unacceptable breaches of humanitarian law which could not have any excuses.

All this makes it a matter of utmost urgency the need to immediately stop any military actions, ensure the safe passage corridors and access of humanitarian assistance to those in need.

When we see every day the growing figures of refugees in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary or Romania it is scaring, and I would say catastrophic.

Today, my country also still hosts a large number of refugees. During the last five weeks, almost 400,000 people have entered to Moldova from Ukraine fleeing the horrors of the war. Almost 100,000 of them are still in Moldova, half of them being children.

Let me assure you that our relevant institutions, with the support of our international partners, are providing all necessary assistance to those who have decided to stay in Moldova.

This shelling and bombings are taking place in the immediate proximity of the borders of Moldova. We are less than 200 kilometres west from Mykolaev and our border with Ukraine is 1,200 kilometres long.

Moldova is a country with the neutrality principle enshrined in its constitution since 1994. But this neutrality is not respected by all. As you all know, we have Russian military forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. All these, of course, creates additional vulnerabilities. The Moldova authorities are doing everything they can to maintain peace, stability, and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova, but not everything depends on the authorities in Chisinau.

In conclusion, I would like to reconfirm the Republic of Moldova's strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

Owing to the destructive position of the Russian Federation, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) is one step from ceasing its work for good. Today I am not going to waste your time expressing our disappointment and concerns or making condemnations. Things have become too obvious, especially in the last month. Whatever Russia does, it is done for the sake of supporting its aggressive, imperialistic and xenophobic policy – in a word, “ruscism” – which has resulted in a large-scale war of aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, the whole world continues to witness Russia committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine – which is a clear indication of how far Russian aggression could go if it is not decisively stopped as soon as possible by jointly co-ordinated international efforts.

If we look at Russia’s previous steps at the OSCE, we see quite a clear picture of how Moscow has instrumentalized its participation in the Organization in order to support its aggressive plans. I am sure that for the majority of delegations it is now obvious that last year’s destructive decision by the Russian Federation not to extend the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission to the two Russian border checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk was just a preparatory step towards the illegal recognition of the so-called “DPR” and “LPR” and the launching of its war of aggression against Ukraine.

It is notable that the Russian town of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky where the headquarters of the Mission was previously situated became one of the main centres for mobilization of reservists, including those from the temporarily occupied parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. The town is also the location of a central Russian military base for reserve vehicles. It is beyond any doubt that OSCE’s presence there was an obstacle to the implementation of Russian preparations to invade Ukraine.

I would also like to remind everyone how on several occasions during relevant discussions last year, the Russian representative underlined that a given decision had been taken personally by the highest authority, meaning President Vladimir Putin. Now it is clear what was the reason behind these statements.

The same logic is behind Russia's opposition to reopening the OSCE Mission in Georgia, which, if re-established, would only get in the way of Moscow's ongoing illegal presence in the occupied Georgian territories.

This kind of Russian policy within the OSCE long ago became an obstacle to the Organization's credibility in general. It is high time to say openly that the Russian delegation has proved to be no more than an instrument for spreading Moscow's propaganda and false narratives. Incidentally, there is also an issue related to the impartiality of Russian-seconded personnel in both the OSCE Secretariat and the field operations. As they are seconded by State bodies – which are parts of the Russian regime of aggression – these people simply cannot remain impartial and meet the relevant requirements and standards required from OSCE personnel. I will raise this issue on other relevant occasions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the tragic Russian war of aggression has meant that much more important work could have been done by the SMM in Ukraine at this time. Yet Russia, as we have seen in the past and as confirmed by the current developments, always attempts to deprive the international community of eyes and ears on the ground wherever and whenever Russian crimes become too apparent. I would like to stress that the destructive decision by the Russian Federation will not help it evade responsibility for all grave international crimes it has already committed in Ukraine. Relevant work on collecting evidence and bringing the Russian leadership and individual perpetrators to justice is already being done at both national and international levels.

Ukraine has always been supportive of the SMM's mandate and the Mission's activities throughout the entire internationally recognized territory of our country. The reason for this steadfast position is very clear and obvious – we have always been on the side of peace, international law and human rights. Peace for Ukraine and its people in every part of our country, from Kyiv to Sevastopol and from Uzhhorod to Luhansk.

Paragraph 2 of Permanent Council Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 made the following provision regarding the SMM's mandate: "That the aim of the said mission will be to contribute, throughout the country and in co-operation with the concerned OSCE executive structures and relevant actors of the international community (such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe), to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security; and to monitoring and supporting the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments."

That is why I would like to reiterate and underline our position once again: Ukraine as a host country is strongly interested in preserving the SMM's presence on the ground and the full implementation of its activities as envisaged by its mandate.

By blocking consensus over the SMM mandate, Russia has chosen to continue the devastating war instead of supporting peace efforts. However, there is still a chance for the Russian Federation to choose the latter. It only takes political will.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for your efforts to extend the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), which would have been our preferred option. The host country Ukraine is very much in favour of keeping the Mission in operation, and there is overwhelming support among participating States. We regret that the Russian Federation will not join consensus on this.

Collecting and analysing facts about the situation on the ground in an impartial and transparent manner, as the SMM has done for the past eight years, would have been very valuable in the present situation. An extended mandate would have allowed for that to happen following an eventual improvement in the security situation. We continue to admire the professionalism, dedication and courage with which the SMM staff have carried out their mandated tasks up to and following their relocation.

We still see a role for the SMM in Ukraine. In the current situation, we therefore support the Chairmanship in the ambition to continue consulting about the SMM mandate. In the meantime, it is important that the SMM be granted the means necessary to fulfil administrative tasks, and we therefore support the way forward proposed by the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General.

Norway will continue to be supportive of any efforts to extend the SMM mandate and to redeploy the mission in Ukraine. We will support the Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE Troika and the Secretary General in that respect.

Thank you.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

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

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

The European Union takes note of the information shared by the Chairperson that the Russian Federation is not in a position to agree to an extension of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) beyond 31 March. The European Union deeply regrets this announcement by Russia. But we are not surprised. In the context of its war on Ukraine, Russia seems determined to dismantle every single OSCE commitment and international obligation, every single security guarantee on the ground, hampering any opportunity for impartial information and reporting of the true security situation in Ukraine. This was also the case when Russia refused to extend the border Observer Mission to Gukovo and Donetsk last autumn.

The European Union and its Member States reiterate their full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We condemn in the strongest terms Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against the independent and sovereign Ukraine, with the active support of Belarus as co-aggressor. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine. The European Union's position on Russia's gross violation of the international law, the UN Charter and the OSCE principles and commitments has been clearly stated at the Permanent Council. Russia is solely responsible for the deterioration of the security situation on the ground that necessitated the temporary evacuation and relocation of the SMM international and national staff in the first place. We still mourn the tragic death of SMM's national staff member, Maryna Fenina, as well as thousands of other innocent civilian victims of Russia's military aggression.

Our position on the SMM's role and importance is also well known. The SMM is a unique OSCE mission, which has been pursuing invaluable work in gathering information and reporting on the situation in Ukraine under the principles of impartiality. The monitors on the ground have proven their added value in facilitating dialogue, negotiating local ceasefires and improving the lives of the Ukrainian people. This work has been essential, as Russia has been trying to destabilize Ukraine through aggression since 2014. The European Union fully supports the SMM and commends the Mission and its staff for their dedicated and fruitful work in fulfilling its mandate in unprecedented and challenging circumstances.

The European Union considers it of utmost necessity that the SMM's important work continues and its mandate is extended. We support the Chairmanship and we intend to participate actively in any consultations on the way forward. We will also be supportive to the Secretary General and her team and thank them again for their tireless efforts during the temporary evacuation and relocation of the SMM personnel.

We strongly urge Russia to reconsider its position, in order to allow the SMM to continue its important work and to demonstrate in words and in deeds that Russia is committed to returning to dialogue and co-operation.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you very much for your efforts to extend the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), which would have been by far the preferred outcome. We regret that a lone isolated participating State, Russia, is blocking the renewal of the SMM mandate. Canada underscores that the SMM's important work in monitoring and reporting violations could be even more crucial in the current context. As such, we join others in fully supporting the renewal of the SMM mandate and budget. The SMM's work over the past eight years, despite the frequent freedom of movement restrictions on the Russian-backed side of the line of contact, assisted in creating transparency and building confidence between the belligerents and the Government of Ukraine. We can only deeply regret that Russia chose not to use the OSCE's good offices to engage in genuine efforts for dialogue. Instead it chose to undertake an unprovoked, unjustified, and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. It is this invasion of Ukraine by Russia, planned and prepared over a number of months, and possibly years, which has required the SMM to be temporarily evacuated from the territory of Ukraine.

We, like others, support the SMM being placed on an administrative status until consensus can be found. We believe that once Russia ceases its attack, withdraws all troops from the entire territory of Ukraine, and returns full control of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, there will be a profound need for the SMM's skills, experience, network, and tools in the rebuilding of Ukraine from the devastating destruction wrought upon it by the Russian Federation. In the meantime, it is important that the SMM be able to continue with its administrative tasks. As such, we support the approach that the Secretary General has described, which will allow for the quick re-establishment of the SMM under these circumstances.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me conclude by expressing Canada's full support for the SMM's national staff and their families who still find themselves in harm's way in Ukraine. On behalf of Canada, I would like to thank all staff for their valiant and crucial efforts over the past eight years. We believe that your experience and expertise will be critical in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 15

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I should also like to add the following comments in a national capacity as a seconding State.

Germany very much regrets that it has been impossible, solely on account of the attitude of the Russian Federation, to achieve consensus on an extension of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) beyond 31 March 2022.

This attitude by the Russian Federation is a serious break that presents great challenges to the entire Organization

The Russian Federation's negative stance is in stark contrast to the added value and success of the SMM in previous years.

Since 2014, the SMM has made a significant contribution to reducing tensions.

And I should like to recall that the SMM has a mandate that would allow it to do much more. It would also have been able to do this in the past if its freedom of movement had not been massively restricted by Russia and its puppet regimes in the so-called "people's republics".

The Russian Federation's current negative stance is thus a shameful continuation of what Russia has been doing in Ukraine for years.

The shutting down of international observation by the Russian Federation is systemic.

Its negative stance also undermines the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach. It undermines the mandate of the OSCE participating States to provide support in conflict and crisis situations, to assist in de-escalation and to seek constructive solutions.

The representatives of Ukraine have explicitly spoken in favour of the Mission remaining in the country. They repeated this here in this room this morning.

The SMM is needed today more than ever. Like the vast majority of States represented here in this room, Germany is therefore in favour of the SMM continuing to monitor, document and report on the current situation, especially under the very difficult conditions that exist at the moment.

This can be done on the ground or temporarily by evaluating the available sources from a distance. The OSCE must retain the Mission's valuable expertise and structures so as to be able to build on them in the future.

Germany therefore emphatically supports the ongoing efforts of the Polish Chairmanship and the measures announced by the Secretary General and is willing to continue to provide political and financial support and human resources for this Mission.

Thank you.

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



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The representative of the Russian delegation referred to the comments of a number of colleagues who have spoken of the unique capabilities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and mentioned the fulfilment by the SMM of its mandate in previous years. I should like therefore to exercise my right of reply.

I have listened attentively to the words of the representative of the Russian Federation and would like to respond to three points.

1. He spoke of the fulfilment by the SMM of its mandate in previous years.

I refer in that regard to the comments in my statement today under this agenda item and to the fact that it was the representatives of the so-called “people’s republics” supported by Russia who continuously obstructed the SMM’s work and freedom of movement.

2. The SMM has been temporarily evacuated because of the precarious security situation.

I should like to remind the representative of the Russian Federation that it is up to the Russian Federation alone to change the “emergency situation” cited by him that led to the temporary evacuation of the SMM. It is simple: end your attack on Ukraine and withdraw your armed forces immediately from the entire territory of Ukraine.

3. I agree with the representative of the Russian Federation when he says that “peace and stability” are threatened.

Peace and stability in Europe are threatened.

Peace and stability are threatened by the unjustified war of aggression by the Russian Federation, by the war of aggression waged by the Russian armed forces since 24 February

with the support of Belarus against a sovereign and democratic State, against an OSCE participating State, against Ukraine.

I therefore call on the Russian Federation: end this war.

I thank you for your attention and ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 17

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

I should very much like to have representatives from the Department of Management and Finance and the Secretariat's Office of Legal Affairs present in this room. It is important that they hear our arguments.

It seems that the Russian position, which was presented to you yesterday in plain English at the Preparatory Committee, has still not been fully heard or really understood, and so today I will take the liberty of elaborating on the elements of Russia's approach that have led to this conclusion.

Some historical background. It was Ukraine that, in late 2013 and early 2014, strongly objected to any OSCE involvement in normalizing the situation in the country. The Minister for Foreign Affairs at that time, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, to whom both the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Mr. Didier Burkhalter, and the Secretary General, Mr. Lamberto Zannier, reached out about urgently resolving the issue of a permanent OSCE presence to de-escalate the situation (also by sending written requests to Ukraine), was evasive. The reason: the matter of a different presence in Ukraine was being explored. This too is recorded in the annals of history. If anyone is interested, I can recommend where to read about it. And curiously enough, even after the establishment of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and its deployment on the territory of Ukraine, for two months the Verkhovna Rada was unable, or rather unwilling, to agree on and ratify a memorandum of understanding with the OSCE. For two months! This is how much Ukraine wanted an OSCE presence on the ground.

I should like to comment further on what the Director of the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), the distinguished Ms. Tuula Yrjölä, said at the Permanent Council on 25 March, especially as she interpreted Financial Regulation 3.04 broadly. We take the position that the aforementioned Regulation cannot be applied to OSCE executive structures with an expired mandate. A different interpretation would be a gross violation of the principles of budgetary discipline and the practice of other intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations. Budget allotments are always tied to a mandate and their size depends on the programmatic requirements determined by the mandate's content.

The SMM has no programmatic needs, just as there will be no programmatic activities whatsoever in the light of the termination of its mandate after 31 March. After that date, the hypothetical continuation of its funding at the level of the previous financial year raises serious questions about cost-efficiency. For example, why should participating States have to pay for the existence of the Mission in idle mode at the same rate as during its full-scale deployment? In the absence of any prospect of extension or modification of the mandate, such measures lead only to an unjustified and pointless waste of resources. Above all, this concerns the Mission's personnel, most of whom will not perform any duties but will continue to be duly paid by our Organization, including in the form of so-called special leave with pay, for an indefinite period of time. We regard such an approach as irresponsible and unacceptable.

Now let me turn to the extension of the contracts of appointed and assigned Mission members until 31 March 2023. What we see here is a refusal to comply with Staff Regulation 4.02, which states that one of the grounds for termination of contracts is an emergency situation requiring the evacuation of the mission and the discontinuation of its activities for a period of at least one month. Such a situation has occurred. Why are contracts not only not being terminated, but even being extended for an entire calendar year? Where in the OSCE Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and the Organization's staff instructions does it even state that a criterion for extending contracts is distress as a result of "doubt about ... continued employment", to which the distinguished Director of the CPC referred? Please give us a direct quotation from the normative documents with such a criterion.

In this context, we would remind you that Financial Regulation 1.05 makes the Secretary General accountable to the Permanent Council for the proper management of the Organization's financial resources. Financial Regulation 6.02 refers to the need to ensure "maximum economy ... in using the resources", for which the Secretary General is also responsible.

We urge both the Polish Chairmanship and the Secretary General to submit without delay to the participating States a draft technical decision of the Permanent Council on the allocation of the resources necessary for closing down the SMM and the complete termination of its administrative activities within a reasonable time frame. We consider this to be the only priority for the work of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance at this stage. Until this problem is resolved, work on decisions on other items on the agenda of this body, including the draft OSCE Unified Budget for 2022, will have to be postponed.

We warn that the Secretariat's refusal to adhere to the internationally recognized principles of budgetary discipline, along with the unjustified, broad and non-consensus interpretation of the OSCE Financial Regulations to suit the political preferences of a whole group of participating States will lead to negative consequences for the programmatic and financial activities of the entire Organization.

As for the comments by the representatives of certain participating States regarding the "unique capabilities of the SMM" with reference to what is happening in Ukraine, capabilities that will allegedly be undermined owing to the failure to extend the Mission's mandate, we are obliged to note that there has never been any "work on its mistakes" or "debriefing" as to how the SMM ended up in its current state. In accordance with its mandate, the Mission was called upon to facilitate an early cessation of hostilities and the development

of dialogue on the ground in the interests of a political settlement, and also to prevent a situation arising that made a resumption of armed confrontation possible. And all this should have been completed with the OSCE's assistance by the end of 2015 in accordance with the Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202.

All the tasks mentioned were also spelled out in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, in numerous decisions of the Trilateral Contact Group that operated until recently, and in the additional ceasefire-strengthening measures of 22 July 2020 agreed upon by the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. The answers are obvious for all to see – in the last years of its existence, the Mission has slid towards highly politicized approaches, predominantly focused on promoting Western narratives about the crisis in Ukraine.

Over the past three years, the SMM has curtailed its contact on the ground with the leadership and most officials of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, whose representatives had for eight years demonstrated through their participation in the Minsk-based Trilateral Contact Group a willingness to work with the Ukrainian Government to build a joint peaceful future within a united country. But they have been ignored. And the Mission ignored them, preferring to talk to the Russian representatives, who, together with the OSCE representatives in the Trilateral Contact Group, facilitated dialogue between the parties to the conflict.

The SMM's dialogue with the authorities of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the heads of the municipalities located there came with political preconditions – as recently as 10 December 2021, at an OSCE briefing, the Chief Monitor of the SMM, Mr. Yaşar Halit Çevik, said that he would communicate with the Donbas leadership only if the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk publicly confirmed their political allegiance to the Kyiv authorities (exact quotes: “If they claim that they are local authorities of Ukraine – of course, we can contact ... If they declare that they are local authorities of Ukraine – I am very happy to see them officially ... If they declare that they are local authorities of Ukraine – tomorrow I will go and visit them”). None of this is consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, nor with the Package of Measures, nor with the mandate of the Mission itself, which included the task of (and I quote) “establish[ing] contact with local, regional and national authorities, civil society, ethnic and religious groups, and members of the local population”. In other words, to facilitate dialogue in the interests of peace and stability, which has not happened. Incidentally, again some historical background: during the negotiations on the mandate in 2014, it was Ukraine that categorically refused to include this very formula in the SMM mandate, namely that the SMM would be engaged in establishing dialogue. What kind of peace could we talk about back then?

The Mission point-blank failed to notice the increasing Russophobia in Ukraine and the aggressive Ukrainian nationalist idea. Things were not called by their proper names. Torchlit neo-Nazi marches with xenophobic slogans were classed as “patriotic gatherings” or events “under patriotic banners”. Inconvenient facts for the Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian armed forces were often glossed over or hidden from the eyes of the general public in restricted-access reports, while any notional “faults” of the Donbas representatives that warranted consideration were examined under a microscope. A detailed summary of Russian comments on the SMM's activities was circulated by us in the form of a non-paper on

14 January this year (PC.DEL/15/22). We recommend that, if anyone has any doubts, they take a look at the facts that we have set out.

The SMM has surprised us much more in the final stage of its time in Ukraine. So far, for example, there has still been no answer to the question as to why the Mission did not report that SMM-badged armoured vehicles had been handed over to the Azov neo-Nazi armed formation in Mariupol at the end of February. They remain stubbornly silent about the circumstances, even though they are well known. Despite our direct questions to both the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General on this subject, no answers have been forthcoming. The only thing that is not surprising is that the Permanent Representative of Ukraine, who is perfectly aware of the problem, keeps shtum about this.

Incidentally, on 20 March, already after the complete evacuation of the SMM from Mariupol, one of the OSCE-badged vehicles was found not in the car park outside the Mission's office but five kilometres away, near Kirov market. It had been involved in combat operations, as evidenced by the distinctive damage to its hull. Why are you remaining silent on this matter? Will you finally tell us who took this vehicle, who was driving it and shooting out of it?

All of this points to the bias of the Mission, which in recent years has been increasingly used as a tool to shield the Kyiv regime and put pressure on the Donetsk and Luhansk authorities instead of engaging in dialogue. We cannot agree that this has facilitated objective and impartial monitoring of the situation in Ukraine. Such approaches have jeopardized the efforts of the entire OSCE to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

In addition, we should like to inform you that the Russian Federation will notify the OSCE Secretariat's human resources service of the termination of the secondment of all its staff to the SMM in connection with the expiry of the Mission's mandate and the termination of its mandated tasks. We see no need for further consultations on changing the mandate or transferring the Mission to "administrative mode".

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

I associate myself fully with the statement by the European Union and should like to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

France expresses its admiration of and respect for the Mission and all its international and national staff for their exceptional and completely impartial work carried out in circumstances of unprecedented difficulty. We join others in thanking the Secretary General and her team for their dedication in particular with regard to the evacuation and relocation of the staff of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). We also unreservedly support the proposals by the Chairmanship and the Secretary General concerning the next steps.

Mr. Chairperson,

France is extremely disappointed at the unilateral decision by the Russian Federation to oppose the extension of the SMM's mandate beyond 31 March.

As pointed out by the European Union, we are hardly surprised by this decision or by the bogus pretexts given by Russia to justify it. We have just heard a number of these false justifications. The reality is simpler. Let us not fool ourselves: Russia has no interest whatsoever in maintaining the SMM so that it can continue to observe the aggression in Ukraine, a sovereign country, by Russia.

Let us recall some facts in that regard.

- The conflict in eastern Ukraine was created artificially by Russia and has been consistently maintained by it since 2014. Before then, the inhabitants of Donbas lived in peace without conflict.
- Since 2014, Russia has been responsible for the vast majority of the massive restrictions on the SMM's freedom of movement over these years. Using the pandemic as an excuse, Russia merely stepped up these restrictions in Donbas so as to

prevent the SMM from monitoring the constant supply of personnel, arms and ammunition by Russia since 2014.

- Russia, with the complicity of Belarus, is responsible today for an overt war resulting in the forced evacuation of the SMM staff.
- Russia, with the complicity of Belarus, is bombarding and attempting to strangle Ukrainian cities such as Mariupol and then dares to ask this body to thank it for deigning to remember its humanitarian obligations.
- Russia, with the complicity of Belarus, is responsible for the death of Maryna Fenina and so many Ukrainian citizens.
- Russia, with the complicity of Belarus, is responsible for the trauma suffered today by all of the people of Ukraine and all of the staff of the SMM. And Russia yet again, with the complicity of Belarus, is responsible for the tragic situation into which the civilian population of Ukraine, and in particular the national members of the SMM, have been plunged.
- Finally, Russia has been attempting for years to undermine the foundations of this Organization and today opposes the extension of a mission that has proved its worth many times over and that Ukraine needs, now more than ever.

If Russia still wishes to maintain the vital dialogue on security in Europe and to re-establish the trust that it has betrayed on too many occasions, it still has a chance to prove this through its actions. It should allow the SMM to continue its work and cease its unjustified aggression against Ukraine. Even more than before 24 February, the conditions for genuine dialogue within this Organization cannot be established as long as the Russian aggression in Ukraine continues.

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/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 19

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The Russian ambassador apparently wants to be thanked for spreading disinformation. I am not going to thank him, but I will say the more he talks the more he alienates himself from this Council.

It is deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation has blocked consensus on the mandate extension of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). It is irresponsible and unjustifiable, but I guess it is hardly surprising. No one will ever forget the actions of the Russian Federation that brought us to this point today: its prosecution of an unprovoked and barbaric war of aggression on Ukraine. We fully sympathize and concur with the objections expressed by the distinguished Ukrainian ambassador and the host country, to closing the Mission. We also fully support the Chairmanship's efforts to continue negotiations in search of consensus.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the years following Russia's occupation of Crimea and instigation of the conflict in eastern parts of Ukraine, the SMM has contributed to reducing tensions by monitoring and supporting the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments. Through courage, ingenuity and grit, SMM monitors and affiliated personnel have provided impartial fact-based reporting, which brought much-needed transparency to the situation on the ground. At the end of the day, we all saw through Russia's pathetic shell game of hiding behind its own proxies through obfuscation and lies, pretending as if Russia did not have boots on the ground when we all knew perfectly well it was the party to the conflict.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the SMM personnel for their selfless service over the past eight years.

I also want to thank the Chief Monitor, his leadership team, and the SMM's brave and indomitable staff for their commitment to the Mission. They have earned our utmost respect for what they have done every day to promote stability and security in the region, and for the trauma they have suffered as a result of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine.

I also want to remember Joseph Stone and Maryna Fenina, who made the ultimate sacrifice. On 24 April, we will mark the fifth anniversary of Joseph Stone's death, when his armoured vehicle was hit by an explosion, most likely an anti-tank mine. Maryna was killed by Russia's shelling of Kharkiv on 1 March. We extend our condolences to their family and friends.

Dear colleagues,

When the carnage ends, we will have to help Ukraine pick up the pieces and rebuild. Ukrainians have been fighting not just for their own freedom, but for a free world on behalf of us all. We will need the full and undiminished commitment of all peace-loving States to help them in reconstituting a sovereign, democratic and prosperous Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 20

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, but let me add a few words in my national capacity.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation is not ready to join the consensus on the draft decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM).

The only reason why the SMM has been unable to fulfil its mandate completely is because the Russian Federation and the armed formations that it backs restricted the Mission's freedom of movement in Ukraine, and, most recently, because the ongoing Russian war of aggression in Ukraine has forced the Mission to evacuate temporarily.

The SMM is one of the OSCE's main tools in Ukraine, and it is our duty as participating States to use all the available means to promote peace and alleviate the suffering of the civilian population of Ukraine.

It is also our duty as participating States to preserve the knowledge, expertise and experience of the Mission and its members, which are – and will continue to be – needed in Ukraine, now more than ever. The SMM has a commonly agreed mandate that would allow it to bring added value in the current situation in Ukraine as well.

Like the Chairmanship, we remain convinced that the SMM has been playing an important role by helping to increase transparency and build confidence and security in Ukraine through its impartial monitoring and reporting.

Allow me also to thank the SMM monitors for their invaluable work in facilitating dialogue, negotiating local ceasefires and thereby improving the lives of ordinary people in Ukraine.

The future of the people of Ukraine has now been shattered by the Russian Federation's aggression against their country. The responsibility for this lies entirely with the Russian Federation.

For all these reasons, we fully support the Chairmanship and the Secretariat in their efforts to ensure the continuation of the SMM's work.

We are grateful for the information provided on the next steps. Considering the wish expressed by most participating States, including the host country, we believe that it is the most sensible route to take in the absence of a decision.

We welcome and fully support the Chairmanship's intention to continue consultations and to actively explore all options that would enable the OSCE to fulfil its important role in Ukraine. We are determined to participate actively and constructively in any consultations, and we urge all participating States to do the same.

I kindly ask 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/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 21

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to stress once again that we all must be aware of the value of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) – a unique, valuable and effective OSCE asset with its very able, professional and impartial leadership and personnel.

The SMM's accumulated experience is needed now more than ever and will certainly be needed tomorrow.

We regret the decision of the Russian Federation not joining the consensus on the draft decision on the extension of the SMM's mandate (PC.DD/6/22 of 18 March 2022).

In March 2014, as the SMM's mandate was being adopted by the Permanent Council, the Russian delegation at the time stated that Russian experts were "willing to take an active part in the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in the interests of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace, stability and security for all the country's residents."

We would have wished to see the same kind of constructive engagement now.

We would have wished that Ukraine, a sovereign country, and its proud people would not have been targeted by Russia as today.

We sincerely ask the Russian delegation to reconsider its position.

We are willing to engage constructively in the consultations that lie ahead.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 22

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for your update on the situation around the extension of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). We are grateful to you and to the Secretary General for the efforts that you have made to maintain the Mission. We are also grateful to the Chief Monitor and all members of the Mission for the dedication that they have shown over the last eight years, this includes in the days and weeks since Russia's premeditated, unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine. As we have said before, the SMM is the eyes and ears of the international community in Ukraine. Our dedicated monitors have been an embodiment of the vital role the OSCE can play in keeping us all secure and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. We mourn the losses of Joseph Stone from 2017 and Marina Fenina this year and offer our condolences to their friends and families.

Sadly, we are not surprised at the approach taken by our Russian colleagues. Disappointed, but not surprised.

Russia's campaign to undermine the role of the OSCE in Ukraine has been long in the making and has grown in intensity. Over recent years, they have picked away at the ability of the SMM to operate; critically undermining the Mission's freedom of movement, levelling unjustified criticisms at the Mission and making demands of the Mission which were unfulfillable. Last year, Russia unilaterally closed the OSCE border Observer Mission.

The Russian Government clearly fears impartial, facts-based reporting. We heard here today a poorly disguised attempt to shift the blame for the failure to extend the Mission's mandate onto others.

Making untrue allegations of bias and referring to a change in the security situation in Ukraine entirely of Russia's making, does not absolve them of full responsibility for not extending the Mission's mandate.

Mr. Chairperson, we will continue to offer you our full support as we work to find a way forward that will ensure that the Mission is able to complete its work in an orderly manner.

I would like to recall the United Kingdom's position, expressed many times in this room, that we condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's premeditated and unjustified

invasion of Ukraine and offer our solidarity and support to the people and Government of Ukraine.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 23

Original: ENGLISH

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 5

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

We welcome Ambassador Kavalec to this meeting of the Permanent Council and warmly thank her and the OSCE Mission for the valuable role that they are playing in the democratization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the necessary political and legal reforms on its European path.

In that regard, we would particularly like to emphasize the need for redoubled efforts by all domestic and international political actors in an inclusive process of limited constitutional and electoral reforms, based on genuine dialogue and in line with European standards, which should seek to eliminate all forms of inequality and discrimination in the electoral process. These reforms are the essential precondition for free, fair, and inclusive elections in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Dayton-Paris Agreement and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We also reiterate Croatia's unequivocal commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination of all citizens and constituent peoples as enshrined in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia welcomes the fact that both the EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence adopted on 21 March and the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24 and 25 March clearly demonstrate the commitment of the European Union at the highest level to the stability, prosperity and European prospects of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and provide us with an essential strategic framework for further engagement.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that my statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you.



1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No.1365, Agenda item 5

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

I would like to join the previous speakers in welcoming Ambassador Kavalec most warmly to the Permanent Council and in thanking her for her very informative report.

At the outset, I would like to underline that our co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has been excellent and that we have engaged in regular exchange of information. We take note of Ambassador Kavalec's overall assessment of and comments on the political environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina and likewise those of the distinguished delegations that have made statements on this subject.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the comprehensive political component of the report points out, the current political crisis clearly has multiple layers, which are at least three in number. The first layer contains issues related to electoral reform, most particularly the obvious frustration of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina who for three terms of office have been unable to elect their representative to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on account of a clash between the ethnic and civic principles implemented in the electoral formula. In simple words, the Croat member of the Presidency is in fact comfortably elected by non-Croat votes because of the high numerical disproportion between Bošnjaks and Croats in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity that forms a single constituency for the Bošnjak and Croat Presidency member. The second layer of the crisis contains issues related to legislation imposed in the past either by high representatives of the international community or even by the Constitutional Court that has sometimes operated as legislator in recent years and has carried out actions resulting in a more centralized country. This trend has weakened the two entities of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. The accumulation of such actions has caused legislative institutions such as the Republika Srpska National Assembly to consider legal possibilities for restoring to the entities certain powers transferred to central authorities in past years. And the third layer of crisis contains concerns about dissolution not rooted in the recent war period. These concerns are related to a specific conflict and fear narrative generated by a pro-Bošnjak elite and some media that perceives everything that comes from the other two national groups as State-dismantling, with secession as the ultimate goal. Needless to say, such an environment makes trust and readiness for compromise almost a "mission impossible", especially on electoral and constitutional issues.

That this is the “state of the nation” 26 years after the conflict confirms that the Dayton Peace Agreement formula for decentralized power-sharing is the only legitimate and viable basis upon which to build a successful country. Any deviations from the Agreement, including those based on centralization or divisive narratives, are equally dangerous and detrimental to long-term stability. In this context, we welcome the European Union Strategic Compass just adopted, which underlines support to Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the principles of equality of and non-discrimination between all citizens and constituent peoples as enshrined in the Constitution. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency has on several occasions reiterated its commitment to implement reforms in the EU accession process, with a view to candidate status being granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina as soon as possible. This stand was reiterated by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency members Džaferović and Dodik during their recent visits to Brussels and the Antalya Diplomatic Forum.

I wish to conclude my comments on the political portion of report by underlining that the current stalemate and crisis is only political in nature and has no conflict potential. We welcome the activities and efforts of international partners who have appointed special envoys and representatives for our region in order to support electoral reform and assist consensus on the way forward towards the establishment of a stable multinational country based on the major principles of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which recognizes two equal entities and three constituent peoples and preserves the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole.

Mr. Chairperson,

Without going into too great detail, let me briefly comment on the programmatic part of the report.

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of any democratic society. We very much welcome the fact that in 2021 the Mission bolstered its focus on electoral reform, focusing on legitimacy, transparency and integrity. We strongly believe that the integrity package of electoral reform will be adopted together with action on major issues burdening election legislation, including the implementation of a few court rulings already announced. In accordance with the fact that the Central Election Commission will call for elections in one month from today, we urge the OSCE Mission and other international partners to go the extra mile in assisting Bošnjak and Croat actors to reach a compromise under which all constituent peoples will be enabled to elect their own representatives but no citizen will be disabled from standing for election. Aware that the fact of a final court ruling regarding the controversial procedure for the appointment of several Central Election Commission members now having been pending for two years does not contribute to a perception of free and fair elections, we sincerely hope that the Central Election Commission will restore public trust before the new electoral cycle starts. This may be a trigger for the Mission to support revision of the appointment procedure of Central Election Commission members as a part of the integrity package measures. In this context, we also welcome the Mission’s intention to continue its assistance in the elections portfolio in 2022. Ambassador Kavalec, you mentioned the Mission’s contribution of expertise to the recent electoral reform negotiations in Neum. Would you kindly elaborate further on this very important event?

We very much value the Mission's assistance in the good governance and anti-corruption portfolio, including its provision of expert, legal and technical support to the participatory development of key anti-corruption regulations. Combating corruption is one of the country's major priorities and is also listed in the 14 key priorities of the EU integration agenda. Two further preconditions for reaching the next stage of EU accession will be the closure of the Office of the High Representative and the addressing of the issue of foreign judges in the Constitutional Court.

We invite the Mission to engage more with major media outlets that influence the public perception of various social phenomena such as that of hate speech as opposed to the building of inter-ethnic trust. The approach currently applied in the media, including the self-proclaimed independent media, does not contribute to building bridges and trust in a deeply divided society. We sincerely hope that the upcoming visit of the Representative on Freedom of the Media will convey appropriate messages in this context.

We welcome all activities implemented within the second dimension. We strongly believe that economic and environmental issues can bring people together and build bridges between communities. However, we regret to see that the level of activities has still not increased in line with host country needs, which extend to more than just basic grassroots activities. We invite the Mission to reconsider its plans, including those for 2022, and, in co-operation with the Secretariat and the host country, to find proper modalities for a more significant shift in this direction, at the expense of other dimensions if necessary. We believe that extensive institutional building in the past enabled host country institutions to take over a number of activities belonging to the other two dimensions.

We very much value the level of assistance delivered in the security sector, in such fields as arms control, security sector reform, disaster risk reduction, border management, and the country's overall compliance with key OSCE politico-military commitments. I wish to draw your attention in particular to the recently completed Project for the Safety and Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina, known as the SAFE-UP project, in which the Mission helped to improve physical security infrastructure at sites of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces. The handover ceremony and project closure took place earlier this month.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is dedicated to its commitments in the cyber-security portfolio. We encourage the Mission to pursue more activities on cyber-security and on the practical utilization of knowledge and resources from the OSCE Transnational Threats Department in the host country.

We welcome the Mission's activities supporting the authorities in preventing and combating violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism. The various stakeholders involved in the de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families should co-ordinate all their activities, with the Mission facilitating and providing its own different type of support.

Let me conclude by drawing attention to the Mission's activities in enhancing women's political participation, which is especially significant in the light of the upcoming elections. Together with building the capacities of domestic actors in responding to

gender-based violence, it makes a significant contribution to gender equality in the country as a whole.

Ambassador Kavalec,

Let me once again reiterate our support for the numerous Mission activities that help the host country to continue building institutions at various levels, implementing internally agreed reforms, and fulfilling its OSCE commitments generally. I wish you and your team all success in future endeavours and on behalf of the host country would like to emphasize that we remain open for joint actions with the OSCE Mission.



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

PC.JOUR/1365

31 March 2022

Annex 25

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 6(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian special military operation to protect Donbas is intended to put an end to the protracted conflict in Ukraine, the political settlement of which the OSCE has failed to achieve. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, in the course of this special military operation, high-precision weapons are being used against military facilities, while civilians and infrastructure are not being targeted. The main objectives of the special operation – demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine – will be met.

To protect the civilian population and avoid needless losses, the Russian Federation has provided humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians and foreign nationals in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol areas on at least 26 occasions. In addition, Russia has agreed to all the additional corridors proposed by the Ukrainian Government. In particular, as of 10 a.m. today, a ceasefire was declared for the evacuation of civilians and foreign nationals from Mariupol to Zaporizhzhia (with an intermediate point in Berdyansk). However, the section of the route from Berdyansk to Mariupol systematically comes under mortar and large-calibre machine-gun fire from the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions.

At the same time, the Ukrainian side categorically refuses to allow citizens to safely evacuate to Russian territory – the Ukrainian Government does not provide clear security guarantees along any of the routes in this direction. This is despite the fact that the Russian authorities have already received over 2.7 million appeals from residents of Ukraine requesting such evacuations. All this indicates only one thing: despite the difficult military situation, the Ukrainian Government is deliberately continuing to politicize humanitarian issues and does not intend to show any real concern for the civilian population. Moreover, the direction of convoys of people going westward, towards the border with European Union countries, is evidence of the Kyiv regime's attempt to create a humanitarian crisis in Europe.

We note that the consultations with the Ukrainian side held in Istanbul on 29 March have not yet led to a radical improvement in co-operation on humanitarian issues. The Ukrainian nationalists continue to hold more than 4.5 million citizens hostage as human

shields in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Mariupol and more than two dozen other major population centres, as well as over 6,000 citizens from some 20 foreign countries.

Moreover, the Ukrainian leadership is actively hindering the humanitarian efforts of international organizations aimed at helping the evacuees. In particular, the other day, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk stated that the Ukrainian Government categorically objects to the launch of a representative office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Furthermore, on 26 March, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health, Medical Assistance and Medical Insurance Mykhailo Radutskyi wrote a corresponding letter to the leadership of the ICRC, in which he made the demand “not to legitimize humanitarian corridors” to the Russian Federation. This is not surprising, because the Ukrainian Government sees the role of the Red Cross somewhat differently: we have already pointed out the fact that, recently in Kherson, a stronghold of the Ukrainian armed forces was disguised as an office of this authoritative international organization.

Despite the opposition of the Ukrainian side, more than half a million people, over 104,000 of them children, have already been evacuated to Russia from the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics and from dangerous regions of Ukraine. More than 9,500 temporary accommodation facilities continue to operate in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Since the beginning of March, Russia has already delivered more than 6,000 tonnes of humanitarian cargo to the Donetsk People’s Republic, the Luhansk People’s Republic and Ukraine, and at least 684 humanitarian actions have been carried out. At the same time, despite the fact that Ukrainian citizens are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, the United States of America and other NATO countries are increasing supplies to Ukraine not of “innocent” goods, but of weapons of all types and the ammunition for them. The armed confrontation is being artificially maintained from abroad and is resulting in civilian casualties.

Last week, the Council of the European Union nevertheless approved an additional 500 million euros from the European Peace Facility for the Ukrainian Government’s military needs. In addition, apparently, in order to further “consolidate peace” in Ukraine, European Union Member States are instructed not to prevent the transit through their territory of military equipment and the personnel taking care of such supplies. In short, they continue to invest in the militarization of Ukraine. The United States is also actively doing this, as we discussed last week. There is reason to believe that the West is not interested in a peaceful scenario for the resolution of the crisis in Ukraine.

Ukraine’s neighbouring countries are already beginning to suffer from such militarization. For example, the Ukrainian navy has laid minefields in the sea on the approaches to the ports of Odessa, Ochakiv, Chornomorsk and Yuzhne. Some 420 obsolete moored contact mines have been laid, also in rivers. They had lain in storage for over 70 years. It is not surprising that, as a result of storms, their cables broke and the mines themselves began to drift freely into the sea. Such actions by the Ukrainian military pose a real threat to navigation in the Black Sea and to all Black Sea towns. Some of these mines have already been discovered and neutralized in the waters of Turkey and Romania.

Ukrainian embassies abroad continue to recruit foreign nationals to take part in the hostilities. The authorities of the countries where this is taking place largely turn a blind eye to the violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Article 41 of which prohibits the use of diplomatic missions for purposes incompatible with their functions.

Armed formations of Ukrainian nationalists continue not only to disregard the lives of civilians by using them as human shields, but also to torture and abuse those who remain in territories under their control. There have been cases of extremely cruel treatment of and reprisals against civil rights activists who expressed disagreement with the ideas propagated by the nationalists. Shocking discoveries have been made of the bodies of civilians tortured to death in the torture chambers of the nationalist battalions, including in Mariupol. Wounds in the form of burned and carved swastikas have been found on their bodies.

Opinion leaders who have expressed an unbiased viewpoint and have not engaged in Ukrainian nationalist propaganda continue to come under attack from the Ukrainian intelligence services. We are talking about journalists, civil rights activists, public figures and political scientists. Elena Berezhnaya, Mykhailo Pohrebynskyi, Vasyl Volha, Dmytro Dzhanhirov, Yuriy Dudkyn, Dmytro Skvortsov, Aleksandr Karevyn, Yuriy Tkachev and many others have been subjected to such attacks. A number of them have been taken to an unknown destination and continue to be detained.

Another example of intensified political reprisals against dissidents is the ban on the activities of a number of political parties. In particular, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved a decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, according to which the activities of 11 centrist and left-leaning political parties, including major parliamentary forces, were suspended under spurious pretexts. Guided by a strange logic, it appears that they do not believe in Kyiv that banning the activities of parliamentary parties will undermine the legitimacy of decisions of the Verkhovna Rada.

It is not surprising that they are now trying to use the Ukrainian Parliament as a tool for legalizing the elimination of undesirable citizen associations. An egregious situation has developed around the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). On 26 March, a draft law was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada on amendments to the current legislation on freedom of conscience and religious organizations, which is supposed to legalize the ban on the activities of the UOC under the pretext of its canonical unity with the Russian Orthodox Church. Incidentally, we are once again failing to hear any comment on this matter from the leadership and relevant institutions of the OSCE. Not even the routine concerns have been expressed. Do they believe that the initiatives and decisions voiced in Kyiv these days are fully in line with OSCE principles?

Another example is the situation in Mariupol, where fighters from the Azov nationalist battalion, having abandoned the UOC Church of Archistratigus Michael they had previously occupied, shelled it for an hour. Or the incident at the Pokrovsky Church in the city of Smila in the Cherkasy region, where “territorial defence” fighters attacked clergyman Vasyl Myroshnychenko during a service and dragged him out of the church (a video is publicly available).

Finally, the Kyiv regime is using religious buildings and places of public worship as collection and transfer points for weapons and for neo-Nazis to take part in hostilities.

Yesterday, the Russian Ministry of Defence published evidence of the use of a new municipal synagogue building in the city of Uman in the Cherkasy region for these purposes. On 21 March, literally the day after the Ukrainian President's speech to the Israeli Knesset, the formation of two columns with nationalists was recorded on the territory of this synagogue. What is more, buses marked with signs saying "children" were used to transport them – all of this is in the photos and video footage.

In addition, fighters of the Ukrainian nationalist battalions use for military purposes the vehicles of international organizations and global commercial companies that they have seized. Such cases have been recorded in Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kyiv and other cities. There are also reports of incidents involving United Nations and OSCE-badged vehicles.

As we have already mentioned, we have still had no answer to the question as to why the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) did not report in a timely manner that SMM-badged armoured vehicles had been handed over to the Azov neo-Nazi armed formation in Mariupol at the end of February.

The leaders of a number of regions and cities in Ukraine continue to deny residents of this country who were forced to move to its western parts the right to use their native Russian language. In the worst traditions of radical nationalism, orders are issued prohibiting communication in Russian even in the domestic sphere. For example, on 25 March, mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk Ruslan Martsinkiv stated that displaced persons from other regions of Ukraine will not be served in stores if they communicate in Russian as part of the policy of "soft Ukrainization". It is noteworthy that Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Liudmyla Denisova, who can barely speak Ukrainian herself – as is evident from her public statements – is keeping silent about this story. As we can see, the actions of the authorities are once again predetermined by so-called political expediency and not by humanitarian considerations.

Manifestations of Russophobia and neo-Nazism in Ukraine have become routine and commonplace in everyday life. Despite the fact that they are allegedly not visible to representatives of participating States present in this room and supposedly not noticed by the SMM, the awareness of the presence and role of neo-Nazi groups in Ukraine seems to be gradually beginning to make its way to the West. Relevant materials have been presented by CNN and *The Washington Post*, for example. Both US media outlets refer directly to the radical orientation of the Azov battalion, which has revived the ideology of the Nazis and is using the hostilities for its own purposes, notably to recruit radical right-wing extremist elements from a number of different countries to its ranks.

Against this background, it is not surprising that the West has begun to actively combat so-called disinformation, in essence introducing censorship of the media and demanding that the media present politically biased information that distorts the realities in Ukraine. Western politicians are clearly much happier seeing exactly those materials that are comfortable for the Kyiv regime, which for years has relied on radical nationalists and neo-Nazis. Nor is it surprising that there have never been any Western journalists in the territories outside the Ukrainian Government's control, and that the picture of the situation there is formed on the basis of propaganda and lies from the authorities in Kyiv. Just look at Ukrainian propaganda's fake stories about Snake Island or the alleged shelling of a maternity

hospital and the drama theatre in Mariupol, or the “absolutely peaceful” Retroville shopping centre in Kyiv where, as it was later proved, heavy rocket artillery was being housed.

In spite of this, we are confident that the truth about the events in Ukraine will eventually come out.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Armenia would like to update the Permanent Council on the ongoing tense and highly unstable situation along the line of contact in Artsakh following the infiltration of the Azerbaijani armed forces into the village of Parukh and adjacent territories of Artsakh on 24 March.

In the evening of 25 March and during the night, the Azerbaijani armed forces, in an attempt to advance further into the territory of Artsakh, attacked the positions of the Artsakh defence army, using firearms of various calibres and Bayraktar TB2 combat unmanned aerial vehicles. Artsakh defence army forces were compelled to engage with the aggressor to halt their advance, as a result of which three servicemen of the Artsakh defence army were killed and fourteen wounded.

As a result of Azerbaijan's latest aggression and flagrant violation of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020, up to two hundred women, children and elderly people have been displaced from their homes in the villages of Parukh and Khramort and have been deprived of their basic rights to life, security and education.

We expect that the Russian peacekeeping forces will continue to undertake all necessary measures to ensure the immediate return of Azerbaijani troops to their initial positions and adherence to the commitments under the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020, thus allowing the peaceful residents to return to their homes.

The invasion of the village of Parukh by the Azerbaijani armed forces was preceded by constant and systematic shelling of Armenian settlements and civilian infrastructure; furthermore, threats were made by the Azerbaijani side through loudspeakers against the peaceful population of several villages of Artsakh to induce them to leave their homes.

In an atmosphere of complete impunity and permissiveness, Azerbaijan has intensified its violations of the human rights of the people of Artsakh, resorting to various methods of psychological and humanitarian terror. For almost 20 days, owing to the interference and manipulations of the Azerbaijani side, more than 120,000 people throughout Artsakh were deprived of natural gas supply, which in the conditions of abnormally cold

weather put the entire population on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. All schools and kindergartens were closed owing to the impossibility of heating. According to the Ombudsperson of Artsakh, the temperature in hospitals at best reached 15 degrees Celsius, which affected the treatment of 51 newborns and their mothers in maternity wards.

Nor is all this a matter of isolated cases. The Azerbaijani side constantly and systematically resorts to the use and threat of force, depriving the rural population of their only means of subsistence. As we all know, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights runs as follows: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Azerbaijan must receive a clear signal that at all times and under all circumstances, the protection of these inalienable rights cannot be compromised.

Dear colleagues,

While the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and other representatives of the international community, including the press service of the Russian Ministry of Defence, gave a clear assessment of the latest escalation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, recognizing that it was due to the movement of Azerbaijani troops, the Azerbaijani authorities, in clear defiance of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020, have claimed that “the positions and locations in the region were being clarified”.

To refresh their memory, let me quote the very first provision of the said ceasefire statement, which reads: “We hereby declare that a complete ceasefire shall be established and all hostilities shall be stopped in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone as of 00:00 Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall remain at their current positions.”

Recently, the delegation of Azerbaijan went even further in their disregard for the provision, claiming that they were entitled to move their military forces as much as they liked. Moreover, they stated that they would continue to do so for as long as they deemed it necessary. Such statements indicate that the Azerbaijani side completely disregards and does not consider itself bound by its international obligations and commitments, including the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. It is clear that this is the result of the impunity and permissiveness it has enjoyed after its flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Moreover, Azerbaijan’s statements constitute an indirect threat of force that undermines the principles of international law, in particular the principles of the Helsinki Final Act relating to refraining from the threat or use of force and to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

To put the record straight, it is worth recalling that this is not the first violation by Azerbaijan of the said provision of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020. Allow me to recall that on 11 December 2020, just a month after the signing of the ceasefire statement, the Azerbaijani armed forces, in flagrant violation of their commitments under the trilateral statement, attacked the positions of the Artsakh defence army near the villages of Hin Tagher and Khtsaberd of the Hadrut region of Artsakh, occupying the two villages and adjacent territories. The Armenian forces were in the positions they held at the time of the signing of the trilateral statement, which dispels the false Azerbaijani propaganda about

so-called sabotage groups. However, this did not prevent Azerbaijan, not least on account of the lack of a clear assessment of what happened, from presenting the captured Armenian servicemen as “saboteurs and terrorists” and prosecuting them on trumped-up charges and confessions obtained under duress, in a clear and blatant violation of international humanitarian law. At present, more than 30 servicemen are still in Azerbaijani captivity facing mock trials. And this is another flagrant violation of the trilateral statement.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the latest report by Amnesty International confirming the number of persons that Azerbaijan is holding in captivity in Azerbaijan. The report confirms the concern expressed by the Council of Europe that dozens of captives continue to be held in inhumane conditions and are being subjected to hasty and unfair trials, while the fate and whereabouts of around 30 Armenian captives remain unknown, putting them at risk of enforced disappearance and possible killing.

Excellencies,

It should also be emphasized that, by contrast with other conflicts in the OSCE area, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been accompanied by atrocities and ethnic cleansing, carried out by Azerbaijan. In the territories that came under the control of Azerbaijan, Armenian civilians who were unable to escape have been killed, beheaded, and their bodies mutilated. Today, not a single Armenian remains in these territories to protest or rally round, or to be abducted or arrested. This is the reality on the ground, and this reality speaks volumes about the failure to protect international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continues to act with complete impunity, with the tacit connivance of the international actors. With every passing day, Azerbaijan continues its destructive and hostile actions aimed at creating unbearable living conditions for the people of Artsakh, including the cutting off of vital supplies and shelling of villages, schools and residential houses. Using various methods of psychological warfare, Azerbaijan is continuing its long-standing policy of ethnic cleansing and expulsion of the Armenians of Artsakh from their historical homeland.

Obviously, these are not the actions of a State that wants peace.

Mr. Chairperson,

Azerbaijan resorts to such human rights violations in the absence of a clear and adequate response from the OSCE and its institutions. We see that the OSCE Polish Chairmanship does not consider these events as something that deserves its reaction or attention. Similarly, we deplore that the OSCE, with its widely advertised early warning and early action tools, does not see any role for its engagement. Let me make it clear that this behaviour on the part of the OSCE and its executive structures is weakening the foundations of the Organization and undermining its credibility. This is clearly not what the people of Armenia expected from joining the OSCE.

We once again call on the Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE institutions and executive structures, and the participating States to demonstrate consistency in their work to protect human rights, to give a clear assessment of Azerbaijan’s violations of international

humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to condemn its provocative actions aimed at undermining regional peace and security, sending a clear message that such actions will have consequences for the aggressor. We call on our partners to support efforts to establish peace in the South Caucasus and achieve a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We also invite the distinguished Chairperson-in-Office to exercise the utmost vigilance when it comes to wording and formulations with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which remains unresolved due to the aggressive and non-constructive position and actions of Azerbaijan.

In closing, let me reiterate that the Government of Armenia is committed to all efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the region. To this end, it has adopted a strategy of opening an era of peaceful development in the region and is resolutely taking necessary steps in this direction. Reaching a lasting and durable peace in the region remains one of its highest priorities.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 27

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 6(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past month, a wave of persecution of Russians and Russian-speaking people, unprecedented in its scale, has swept across the so-called Western world.

Let me quote word for word what Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland, said just the day before yesterday in a major media interview when talking about hydrocarbon exports from Russia. He went as far as saying the following: “Ladies and gentlemen, in the context of this terrible event, which is the war in Ukraine, Poland sets some standards, and what was previously called Russophobia is now mainstream, it is already accepted as a reality.”

We thank Mr. Morawiecki for his popular explanations as regards what Russophobia is now for a bloc of Western States and what role is assumed in this shameful phenomenon by the country holding the Chairmanship of our Organization. Let us talk about this.

More specifically, let us analyse which commitments undertaken by the participating States within the OSCE are being violated by the discrimination against the Russian and Russian-speaking population and the infringement upon their fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

Combating discrimination underpins the foundations of our Organization – the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. In accordance with that document, the participating States agreed that they would “respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion ... promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his free and full development”. In particular, “[t]he participating States on whose territory national minorities exist will respect the right of persons belonging to such minorities to equality before the law, will afford them the full

opportunity for the actual enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and will, in this manner, protect their legitimate interests in this sphere.”

Similar provisions can also be found in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe. The participating States affirmed that, without discrimination, every individual has the right to “freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, freedom of expression”. They also expressed their “determination to combat all forms of racial and ethnic hatred, antisemitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone”.

At the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the leaders of our countries declared that they rejected “racial, ethnic and religious discrimination in any form” and that “[f]reedom and tolerance must be taught and practised.”

To varying degrees, the persecution of Russians and Russian-speaking people also violates other OSCE commitments in the field of combating intolerance and discrimination, along with commitments regarding the protection of the rights of national minorities. In particular, paragraph 19 of the Vienna Concluding Document (1989) states that the participating States “will protect and create conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory”. Paragraph 59 of that Document establishes that the participating States “will ensure that persons belonging to national minorities or regional cultures on their territories can maintain and develop their own culture in all its aspects, including language, literature and religion; and that they can preserve their cultural and historical monuments and objects”. These provisions are also echoed in the 1990 Copenhagen Document. The 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration even emphasizes the commitment of the OSCE participating States to “ensure that laws and policies fully respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in particular in relation to issues affecting cultural identity”.

An unbridled campaign to eliminate the presence of Russia and all things Russian in the global information space has been launched. Russian-language media are being banned or blocked everywhere in Western countries, as we have repeatedly stated within these walls. Freedom of expression, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and confirmed in OSCE commitments, is being flagrantly suppressed. In particular, the aforementioned 1990 Copenhagen Document of the CSCE establishes that “everyone will have the right to freedom of expression including the right to communication. This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.” The same is true for the 1994 Budapest Summit decision, where it was reaffirmed that “freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and a basic component of a democratic society”, and also for other thematic documents of our Organization.

A veritable economic war without rules has been declared on Russians around the world. Countries of the Western bloc led by the United States of America have imposed unprecedented unilateral coercive measures against Russia’s defence, financial and commercial sector, and against the assets of natural persons and legal entities. This fundamentally undermines universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including OSCE commitments, the principles of co-operation, sovereign equality and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, and violates treaty obligations. The ideology

of unilateral restrictions – and this is openly acknowledged by its authors – is to inflict maximum damage on Russia’s economy. The hunt for property and bank accounts belonging to Russians and Russian-speaking people violates, among other things, property rights in line with OSCE commitments. I recall the provision of the 1990 Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe, which states that the participating States “[w]ill endeavour to achieve or maintain ... [f]ull recognition and protection of all types of property including private property, and the right of citizens to own and use them”.

The prohibition of Russian culture and pressure on and harassment of Russian-speaking people in the creative professions is incompatible with the provisions of the OSCE commitments on the protection of cultural rights contained, in particular, in the 1991 Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE Participating States, which emphasized that the State and the public authorities “will refrain from infringing upon the freedom of artistic creation ... undertake to promote and protect the free and unhindered development of artistic creativity; they recognize the important role of the individual artist in society and will respect and protect the integrity of creative work.”

The persecution of Russian athletes, their exclusion from all international events, including the Paralympic Games, and their wholesale expulsion from international sports associations is an ugly manifestation of discrimination in sport, again contrary to OSCE commitments. The 1975 Helsinki Final Act reads: “In order to expand existing links and co-operation in the field of sport, the participating States will encourage contacts and exchanges of this kind, including sports meetings and competitions of all sorts, on the basis of the established international rules, regulations and practice.” The Vienna Concluding Document (1989) stipulates that the participating States “will facilitate such contacts and co-operation among their peoples through such measures as direct sports exchanges on a local and regional level”.

I should like to highlight the hounding and persecution of Russian diplomats, which has reached unprecedented proportions. The unthinking and unjustified declaration of dozens of our colleagues in Western countries as *personae non gratae* and the absurd accusations of activities inconsistent with their status undermine the fundamental foundations of bilateral relations with Russia, which are in fact being irreparably damaged. The diplomatic missions themselves have been targeted by aggressive radicals in Poland, France, Germany, Slovenia and many other countries, unfortunately including Austria. In Europe and North America, personal insults to the point of physical threats have become more frequent, such as, for example, against the Russian Ambassador and his wife in the Netherlands and our Ambassador in Vienna. Vandalism against Russian embassies and the blocking of their property and bank accounts are becoming the norm. In their anti-Russian aspirations, some, as here in Vienna, go as far as to ludicrously refuse the renewal of subscriptions to Internet publications or deny diplomatic vehicles access to the special car park at Schwechat Airport. The list of violations of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations by Western countries could go on and on.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today we have given examples of violations of human rights and freedoms in relation to the relevant OSCE commitments. Unfortunately, this is by no means a complete picture of what is happening. On 25 March, the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights published a report

entitled “Violation of the rights of Russian nationals and compatriots abroad during the events in Ukraine in February and March 2022”, which we will distribute at the OSCE. It contains detailed information and cites specific cases of the outrageous treatment of Russian-speaking people at both the official level and the day-to-day level, notably in OSCE participating States. We urge the heads of the relevant executive structures, including the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Matteo Mecacci, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Teresa Ribeiro, and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, to respond to the gross and continuing violations of the rights of Russians and Russian-speaking people. We intend to keep drawing attention to the issue.

I thank you for your attention and request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.



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

PC.JOUR/1365
31 March 2022
Annex 28

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1365th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 6(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the light of comments made by our colleagues, we should like to exercise our right of reply.

It was not by chance that we indicated in our statement that we intended to keep drawing attention to this issue.

Unfortunately, no serious conversation on the topic has yet taken place. What we have just heard is rather an attempt to justify Russophobia and give it a theoretical basis. We trust that the discussion will have more substance next time.

I thank you for your attention and request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.



1365th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1365, Agenda item 6(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has raised this current issue under the title “Gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Russian and Russian-speaking population as the open challenge to the OSCE commitments”. We very much agree that there are currently ongoing gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Russian and Russian-speaking populations. The fact is that the vast, overwhelming majority of these violations are being committed by the Russian Federation itself. While we held out the very faintest of hopes that its current issue might have been self-reflective, that was clearly not the case.

For gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Russian populations, I would point to the recent statement of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) Teresa Ribeiro who, on 16 March, wrote: “At this point, I can come to no other conclusion than the following: the Russian Federation is rapidly moving towards a situation of complete censorship and isolation of its citizens from any form of independent information.” With the recent suspension of work by *Novaya Gazeta*, following the ban of almost all other independent news outlets, it appears that the RFOM’s prognosis has proven accurate.

Furthermore, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has expressed its serious concerns that peaceful anti-war protesters in Russia have faced arbitrary arrests and police intimidation. In their 1 March statement, ODIHR noted cases of human rights defenders being arrested at the protests, or even before they were able to reach them. ODIHR added that the “often excessive use of force by law enforcement is a grave violation of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, core principles of democracy”.

There is a serious lack of freedom of expression, freedom of media, and freedom of peaceful assembly in the Russian Federation. So I will again agree that this represents a gross violation of Russians’ human rights and fundamental freedoms and open challenges to OSCE commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian delegation has also expressed their concerns over gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Russian-speaking populations. I am certain that the Russian-speaking populations of Kharkiv, Kherson, Mariupol and so many other Ukrainian cities, villages, and towns would agree. They would also certainly agree that this is entirely due to the actions of the Russian Government.

The Russian delegation has repeatedly complained about “Russophobia”, but seems entirely incapable of understanding that if such “Russophobia” exists, it exists solely due to its own government’s brutal and savage attacks, both on the people of Ukraine and on Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Does it truly surprise the Russian delegation that the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine, who have seen their cities devastated, who have seen their friends and family killed, who have seen their futures destroyed by Russia would have enmity towards Russia?

Let me state this plainly, it is Russia’s acts that have tragically created the conditions for decades of alienation and hatred. Following 24 February 2022, the Russian Government has absolutely no right, absolutely no right, to claim any concern for the Russian-speaking citizens of neighbouring countries.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson and I ask that my statement be added to the journal of the day.