
Chairmanship: Germany**1115th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**1. Date: Thursday, 13 October 2016Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 5.30 p.m.2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. Pohl
Ms. C. Weil3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(ODIHR) ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1423/16), Kazakhstan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1406/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1413/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/1403/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1386/16), Canada, Norway (PC.DEL/1390/16), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1396/16 OSCE+), Tajikistan (Annex), Holy See (PC.DEL/1388/16 OSCE+), Mongolia, Georgia, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1399/16 OSCE+), Armenia, Poland

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CONFLICT
 PREVENTION CENTRE

Chairperson, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/150/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1401/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1387/16), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1408/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1412/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/1411/16 OSCE+), Georgia, Belarus, Moldova (PC.DEL/1419/16 OSCE+), Armenia, Ukraine

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1418/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1397/16), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1409/16 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1404/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1389/16), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1414/16), Ukraine
- (c) *Thirty-seventh round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 4 and 5 October 2016:* Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1424/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1415/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1391/16), Georgia
- (d) *World and European Day against the Death Penalty, observed on 10 October 2016:* Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1398/16), Iceland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland), Belarus

- (e) *Parliamentary elections in Georgia, held on 8 October 2016*: Georgia, United States of America (PC.DEL/1393/16), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1400/16)
- (f) *Silencing of independent voices in the Russian Federation*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1394/16), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1395/16), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1410/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1416/16)
- (g) *Concerns related to independent media in Kazakhstan*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1392/16), Kazakhstan

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

- (a) *Extension of congratulations by the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General on the appointment of António Guterres as the new UN Secretary-General in accordance with the United Nations Security Council decision of 6 October 2016*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/178/16)
- (b) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to the Council of Europe and address by the Chairperson-in-Office to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, both taking place on 13 October 2016*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/178/16)
- (c) *Press release by the Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 and the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on the naming of the Russian human rights group “Memorial” as a “foreign agent” by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, issued on 7 October 2016*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/178/16)
- (d) *Co-chairing by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus of the thirty-seventh round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 4 and 5 October 2016*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/178/16)
- (e) *Visit of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process to Chisinau and Tiraspol from 10 to 12 October 2016*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/178/16)

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/152/16 OSCE+)*: Head of Conference Services
- (b) *Request by the Secretary General for three camera systems as in-kind contributions to the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM)*: Head of Conference Services (SEC.GAL/152/16 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Parliamentary elections in Iceland, to be held on 29 October 2016*: Iceland
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Liechtenstein, to be held on 5 February 2017*: Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1405/16 OSCE+)
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in the Netherlands, to be held on 15 March 2017 (PC.DEL/1402/16 Restr.)*: Netherlands

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 October 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1115
13 October 2016
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

1115th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1115, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TAJIKISTAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan also welcomes the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Michael Georg Link, to this meeting of the Permanent Council, and thanks him for his detailed presentation on the recent OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The delegation of Tajikistan has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Permanent Council, the OSCE Chairmanship, the ODIHR and the OSCE Secretariat to the illegal activities of persons introducing themselves as representatives of the banned Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) and other groups, who use the OSCE as a platform for the continuation of their unlawful actions and for advocating their extremist ideas. The delegation of Tajikistan has already expressed its concern with regard to such intrusions and has provided comprehensive information in order to prevent undesirable and unacceptable situations.

Unfortunately, our warnings and objections have not been taken into account, as is clearly shown by the attempts by persons presenting themselves as members of the banned non-existent organizations to participate in a number of ODIHR events, including the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, on the margins of which they moreover succeeded in organizing a kind of side event.

It should be noted that more than 50 unidentified persons had the opportunity to participate at the HDIM, where they blocked the participation of the members of the official delegation of Tajikistan and exerted pressure upon them. Many HDIM participants observed the unacceptably defiant and aggressive behaviour of these persons. With the connivance of its organizers, the HDIM was turned into a political show and used to promote unacceptable and hostile ideas and goals.

As a result, the delegation of Tajikistan was forced to leave this important political event. Unfortunately there was no appropriate reaction from the host institution or other delegations in response to our departure.

This shows how the annual meeting of the ODIHR may easily turn into a convenient platform for criminal and terrorist elements.

Tajikistan has been conducted good and constructive relations with the ODIHR for a long time on various matters, co-operating with the Office, for example, in its support for the development of civil society in Tajikistan. Step by step, the Republic of Tajikistan is implementing the OSCE's and ODIHR's recommendations.

It should be mentioned that we welcome the participation in OSCE events of officially registered and legally operating political parties and non-governmental organizations from Tajikistan and regard this as a valuable contribution to the further strengthening of civil society in the country.

However, we consider attempts to take part in OSCE events by persons representing terrorist organizations who stand accused of serious crimes to be a challenge. Furthermore, we consider that the lack of response constitutes serious disrespect towards the OSCE participating State concerned and could harm our established relations.

If others regard this state of affairs and this attitude on the part of the ODIHR towards the delegation of an OSCE participating State as satisfactory, we consider them unsuited to managing and organizing events.

In this regard, the delegation of Tajikistan to the OSCE would like to express the strongest objection to the participation of leaders and members of the banned terroristic organizations at OSCE and ODIHR events in the future.

The continuation of this approach by the ODIHR may undermine our collective efforts to combat terrorism, violent extremism, radicalism and other challenges, and, furthermore, promote the activities of these criminal groups, enabling them to continue their untrammelled destructive activities against our people.

Tajikistan still believes that the ODIHR has to deliver in accordance with the expectations of the OSCE participating States. Until the requested measures are provided, we cannot effectively co-operate on the basis of the mistrust and lack of credible behaviour that we see now.

We call on the OSCE German Chairmanship and the incoming Austrian Chairmanship to promote improvement in the practice of good relations between the participating States and this OSCE institution, in order to avoid a further crisis in the Organization.

In the light of this situation, the delegation of Tajikistan wishes to state that before joining consensus on decisions related to future ODIHR events we will carefully consider our position in order to obtain assurances concerning appropriate organization and participation.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.