
Chairmanship: Austria**1155th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 20 July 2017

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Suspended: 1.05 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Suspended: 6.20 p.m.

Resumed: 11.30 a.m. (Friday, 21 July 2017)

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Kojia

Mr. K. Iro

Mr. J. Heissel

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF ITALY, H.E. ANGELINO ALFANO

Chairperson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy (PC.DEL/1101/17), Estonia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1064/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1043/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1084/17 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1039/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/1042/17 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1048/17 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1058/17 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1078/17 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1060/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1055/17 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1052/17), Kyrgyzstan, Albania (PC.DEL/1041/17), Holy See (PC.DEL/1040/17 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1092/17), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Moldova, Morocco (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussed under agenda item 3

Agenda item 3: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/20/17 OSCE+), Estonia-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 Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1065/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1054/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1088/17 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1049/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/1059/17 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1076/17 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1081/17 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1062/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1056/17 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1053/17), Chairperson

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1264 (PC.DEC/1264) on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Estonia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2017 HUMAN
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1265 (PC.DEC/1265) on the agenda for the 2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Commemoration of the attempted terrorist coup in Turkey in July 2016:* Turkey (PC.DEL/1073/17 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1044/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1086/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1057/17 OSCE+), Estonia-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 Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1071/17/Rev.1)
- (b) *The Russian language in Lithuania:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1045/17 OSCE+), Lithuania (PC.DEL/1050/17 OSCE+)
- (c) *Attempts by NATO to glorify the so-called “Forest Brothers” and to rewrite the history of the Second World War:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1046/17 OSCE+), Estonia (also on behalf of Latvia and Lithuania) (PC.DEL/1067/17 OSCE+), Lithuania, Latvia
- (d) *Ban on Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Russian Federation:* Estonia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Australia, Canada, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment), United States of America (PC.DEL/1051/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1085/17 OSCE+), Ukraine, Russian Federation

Point of order: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russian Federation, France, Chairperson

- (e) *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, marked on 26 June:* Switzerland (also on behalf Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) (PC.DEL/1089/17 OSCE+), Estonia-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, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1068/17),

United States of America (PC.DEL/1061/17), Holy See (PC.DEL/1077/17 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1098/17)

- (f) *Continued reports of gross violations of human rights by the Chechen authorities*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1063/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1100/17), Ukraine
- (g) *Illegal so-called “elections” in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan*: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1080/17 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1097/17 OSCE+), Moldova, Turkey (PC.DEL/1083/17 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1087/17)
- (h) *“Presidential elections” in Nagorno-Karabakh, held on 19 July 2017*: France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America), Estonia-European Union (PC.DEL/1072/17), Armenia (PC.DEL/1093/17), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1082/17/Rev.1 OSCE+), Turkey
- (i) *Situation of LGBTI persons in Chechnya*: Estonia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Australia, Canada, Georgia, San Marino, Ukraine and the United States of America, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1070/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1099/17)

Agenda item 7: DECISION ON THE TOPIC AND DATES OF THE HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR IN WARSAW

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council placed the decision on the topic and dates of the Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw, the text of which is appended to this journal, under a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on Wednesday, 26 July 2017, at 5 p.m. CET

Agenda item 8: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council placed the decision on the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2017 Human Dimension Seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal, under a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on Wednesday, 26 July 2017, at 5 p.m. CET

Agenda item 9: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the newly appointed OSCE Secretary General, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on 20 July 2017: Chairperson*
- (b) *Distribution of reports on the roundtable discussions at the Informal meeting of the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in Mauerbach, Austria, on 11 July 2017: Chairperson*
- (c) *Participation of a representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in the conference “The Public and Private Partnership in the Fight against Human Trafficking”, held in Moscow on 20 July 2017: Chairperson*
- (d) *Issuance of a new vacancy notice for the position of the Chief Observer of the Border Observation Mission: Chairperson*

Agenda item 10: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Investigation into the tragic incident of 23 April 2017 involving a patrol of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/17 OSCE+)*
- (b) *OSCE Needs Assessment Mission to Astana conducted by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities from 12 to 14 July 2017: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/106/17 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the OSCE Secretary General: Chairperson, Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; 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 Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 1), Serbia, Canada (Annex 2), Georgia (Annex 3), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/1090/17 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Announcement by the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 18 July 2017 (Annex 4), of the adoption through a silence procedure of Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/17 (MC.DEC/1/17) on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the text of which is appended to this journal: Chairperson, Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the*

- decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)
- (c) *Announcement by the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 18 July 2017 (Annex 5), of the adoption through a silence procedure of Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/17 (MC.DEC/2/17) on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the text of which is appended to this journal:* Chairperson, Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)
- (d) *Announcement by the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 18 July 2017 (Annex 6), of the adoption through a silence procedure of Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/17 (MC.DEC/3/17) on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the text of which is appended to this journal:* Chairperson, Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Austria (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision)
- (e) *Announcement by the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 18 July 2017 (Annex 7), of the adoption through a silence procedure of Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/17 (MC.DEC/4/17) on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the text of which is appended to this journal:* Chairperson, Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)
- (f) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of the European Union to the OSCE, Ambassador T. Béchet:* Chairperson, Representative of the European Union
- (g) *Parliamentary elections in Austria, to be held on 15 October 2017:* Austria
- (h) *Twenty-sixth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Minsk from 5 to 9 July 2017:* OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- (i) *Parliamentary elections in Norway, to be held on 11 September 2017:* Norway

- (j) *Presidential elections in Mongolia, held on 26 June and 7 July 2017:*
Mongolia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 31 August 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(a)

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

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

The European Union would like to congratulate the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship on the successful conclusion of the four senior appointments. We thank them and last year's German OSCE Chairmanship for all their efforts to ensure the appointments of the Secretary General, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media. We welcome the conclusion of this unduly lengthy process. We would like to thank all the candidates who put themselves forward for these important positions, and congratulate the new mandate holders.

The European Union underlines its full support for the mandates and the independence of the OSCE autonomous institutions, which require strong leadership. Nothing in the adopted decisions should be interpreted as weakening this autonomy or restricting the work of the newly appointed mandate holders.

We also offer our thanks to those who have provided continued leadership of the Secretariat and the institutions over this period.

We wish all new appointed officials all the best in executing their mandates.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada sincerely thanks the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE for having brought to conclusion this difficult and unnecessarily drawn-out process. This is particularly true for the positions of High Commissioner on National Minorities and of Representative on Freedom of the Media, where repeated objections and delays imposed by one participating State drove our Organization into an untenable situation where the four most senior leadership positions of the OSCE were vacant.

Although we feel strongly that an even more optimal outcome could have been achieved, we welcome the fact that all four positions have now been successfully filled, with three out of the four positions filled through fair and merit-based selection processes.

We congratulate all four nominees on their appointments and trust that they will carry out their duties in line with the principles, values and commitments of the OSCE, in accordance with their respective mandates and with full appreciation for the autonomous nature of the HCNM, the RFOM and the ODIHR.

Canada remains committed to supporting the important work carried out by the OSCE and its institutions and we look forward to excellent co-operation with the new Secretary General and each head of institution, as well as their respective teams.

We 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/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Georgia welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of the OSCE Secretary General and the heads of OSCE institutions. In this context, we congratulate Ambassador Greminger, Ambassador Zannier, Mr. Désir and Ms. Solrun Gísladóttir on the assumption of their important duties.

Georgia attaches great importance to the work undertaken by the Secretary General, the Director of the ODIHR, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media.

We reiterate our strong support to the mandates and autonomy of these important institutions and express our determination to continue to work closely with them.

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/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(b)

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Vienna, 18 July 2017

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (MC.DD/1/17/Rev.5), expiring on 18 July 2017, at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council on 20 July 2017. Hence, Mr. Lamberto Zannier is appointed as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretive statement or formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Sebastian Kurz

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

PC.JOUR/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(c)

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Vienna, 18 July 2017

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (MC.DD/2/17/Rev.5), expiring on 18 July 2017, at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council on 20 July 2017. Hence, Mr. Harlem Désir is appointed as Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretive statement or formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Sebastian Kurz

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

PC.JOUR/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(d)

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Vienna, 18 July 2017

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (MC.DD/4/17/Rev.5), expiring on 18 July 2017, at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council on 20 July 2017. Hence, Ms. Ingibjörg Solrun Gísladóttir is appointed as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretive statement or formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Sebastian Kurz

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

PC.JOUR/1155
20 July 2017
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 11(e)

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Vienna, 18 July 2017

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General (MC.DD/3/17/Rev.5), expiring on 18 July 2017, at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council on 20 July 2017. Hence, Mr. Thomas Greminger is appointed as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretive statement or formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Sebastian Kurz

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the OSCE participating States



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

MC.DEC/1/17
18 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/17
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON
NATIONAL MINORITIES**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Reaffirming the necessity that the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Considering that the term of office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ms. Astrid Thors, came to an end on 19 August 2016,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Lamberto Zannier as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

MC.DEC/1/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of a new OSCE Secretary General and new heads of institutions.

We welcome the fact that eventually we reached consensus on this matter and appreciate all efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship regarding these appointments. Although, the decisions were not adopted in due time.

Let me warmly welcome Mr. Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) as OSCE Secretary General; Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) as Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Mr. Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; and Mr. Harlem Désir (France) as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Permanent Council meeting and congratulate them on respective appointments. I would like to wish all the success to all of you in your new capacities.

At the same time, we regretfully note the absence of fair geographical balance among leading representatives of the OSCE, not only among newly appointed heads of institutions, but also historically among previous incumbents since the very establishment of the OSCE. We hope that this practice will be halted in the future.

For this, we encourage to use a GRIP approach, where G stands for Gender Balance, R stands for Regional Balance, I stands for Interfaith Balance and P stands for Professional Balance.

From the procedural prospective, we note the “broad interpretation” of existing established practice of candidates’ nomination, although we understand that the Chairmanship has done that for the sake of consensus.

We call on all participating States to ensure further institutionalization of our Organization through the adoption of the OSCE Charter which will contain, *inter alia*, a clear

set of rules and procedures related to the processes of nomination, selection and appointment to the OSCE leading posts. We are confident that it will help us to avoid the burdens of last selection process in the year 2016–2017.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to all four decisions and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/1/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan):

“Our countries joined the consensus on the decisions by the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the appointment of the new OSCE Secretary General, the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and the new Representative on Freedom of the Media, the silence procedure for which expired on 18 July. Thus, from 19 July, Mr. Thomas Greminger assumed responsibilities as the new Secretary General, Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir as the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Lamberto Zannier as the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and Mr. Harlem Désir as the new Representative on Freedom of the Media. We congratulate them on their lofty appointments. We wish them every success in their responsible positions.

At the same time, we should like to point out the unacceptability of the situation in which throughout all the years of the OSCE’s existence there has never been a single representative of our countries in the leadership of its executive structures. Steps need to be taken to rectify such a bias, which contravenes the fundamental principles of the OSCE’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions of the Organization.

We trust that in future appointments to leading positions in the OSCE executive structures our concerns will be fully taken into account.

We hope that the aforementioned executive structures will work effectively in strict accordance with their mandates and taking into account the opinions of all participating States and also on the basis of a constructive approach on the part of the newly appointed heads.

I request that this statement be appended to all the decisions adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/1/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Lamberto Zannier. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the HCNM.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted our principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to be of the strong view that the OSCE executive structures and field missions are the common assets of all 57 OSCE participating States, providing that they act in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with their respective mandates and by no means harm the legitimate interests of participating States. Principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency, as well as scrupulous implementation of their respective mandates by heads of the institutions and field missions are the prerequisites for extending collective support of participating States to activities of OSCE institutions and field missions.

Furthermore, selection of the candidates for leadership positions within the Organization revealed once again already intolerable geographic imbalance in OSCE recruitment process. It underscored the urgent need to improve fair geographic representation within the Organization’s executive structures from unrepresented participating States.

The decision in no way sets a precedent and we strongly encourage the current Austrian and incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanships to submit promptly a proposal on establishing a mechanism that would ensure stronger application in practice of the principle of fair geographic distribution of posts in OSCE. This will help ensuring a sense of ownership of the Organization and rebuilding trust and confidence in the OSCE. Such a mechanism will assist participating States in proper planning and nominating candidates for vacancies, including for the next selection process of heads of OSCE executive structures.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

MC.DEC/2/17
18 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 2/17
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Reaffirming the necessity that the Representative on Freedom of the Media carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/16, the term of office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, expired on 10 March 2017,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Harlem Désir as Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

MC.DEC/2/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of a new OSCE Secretary General and new heads of institutions.

We welcome the fact that eventually we reached consensus on this matter and appreciate all efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship regarding these appointments. Although, the decisions were not adopted in due time.

Let me warmly welcome Mr. Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) as OSCE Secretary General; Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) as Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Mr. Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; and Mr. Harlem Désir (France) as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Permanent Council meeting and congratulate them on respective appointments. I would like to wish all the success to all of you in your new capacities.

At the same time, we regretfully note the absence of fair geographical balance among leading representatives of the OSCE, not only among newly appointed heads of institutions, but also historically among previous incumbents since the very establishment of the OSCE. We hope that this practice will be halted in the future.

For this, we encourage to use a GRIP approach, where G stands for Gender Balance, R stands for Regional Balance, I stands for Interfaith Balance and P stands for Professional Balance.

From the procedural prospective, we note the “broad interpretation” of existing established practice of candidates’ nomination, although we understand that the Chairmanship has done that for the sake of consensus.

We call on all participating States to ensure further institutionalization of our Organization through the adoption of the OSCE Charter which will contain, *inter alia*, a clear

set of rules and procedures related to the processes of nomination, selection and appointment to the OSCE leading posts. We are confident that it will help us to avoid the burdens of last selection process in the year 2016–2017.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to all four decisions and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/2/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan):

“Our countries joined the consensus on the decisions by the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the appointment of the new OSCE Secretary General, the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and the new Representative on Freedom of the Media, the silence procedure for which expired on 18 July. Thus, from 19 July, Mr. Thomas Greminger assumed responsibilities as the new Secretary General, Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir as the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Lamberto Zannier as the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and Mr. Harlem Désir as the new Representative on Freedom of the Media. We congratulate them on their lofty appointments. We wish them every success in their responsible positions.

At the same time, we should like to point out the unacceptability of the situation in which throughout all the years of the OSCE’s existence there has never been a single representative of our countries in the leadership of its executive structures. Steps need to be taken to rectify such a bias, which contravenes the fundamental principles of the OSCE’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions of the Organization.

We trust that in future appointments to leading positions in the OSCE executive structures our concerns will be fully taken into account.

We hope that the aforementioned executive structures will work effectively in strict accordance with their mandates and taking into account the opinions of all participating States and also on the basis of a constructive approach on the part of the newly appointed heads.

I request that this statement be appended to all the decisions adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/2/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to be of the strong view that the OSCE executive structures and field missions are the common assets of all 57 OSCE participating States, providing that they act in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with their respective mandates and by no means harm the legitimate interests of participating States. Principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency, as well as scrupulous implementation of their respective mandates by heads of the institutions and field missions are the prerequisites for extending collective support of participating States to activities of OSCE institutions and field missions.

Furthermore, selection of the candidates for leadership positions within the Organization revealed once again already intolerable geographic imbalance in OSCE recruitment process. It underscored the urgent need to improve fair geographic representation within the Organization’s executive structures from unrepresented participating States.

The decision in no way sets a precedent and we strongly encourage the current Austrian and incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanships to submit promptly a proposal on establishing a mechanism that would ensure stronger application in practice of the principle of fair geographic distribution of posts in OSCE. This will help ensuring a sense of ownership of the Organization and rebuilding trust and confidence in the OSCE. Such a mechanism will assist participating States in proper planning and nominating candidates for vacancies, including for the next selection process of heads of OSCE executive structures.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/2/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Harlem Désir. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the RFOM.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted our principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

MC.DEC/3/17
18 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 3/17
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Reaffirming the necessity that the Director of the ODIHR carries out her functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the ODIHR,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/14, the term of office of the current Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Michael Georg Link, expired on 30 June 2017,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Ms. Ingibjörg Solrun Gísladóttir as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

MC.DEC/3/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of a new OSCE Secretary General and new heads of institutions.

We welcome the fact that eventually we reached consensus on this matter and appreciate all efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship regarding these appointments. Although, the decisions were not adopted in due time.

Let me warmly welcome Mr. Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) as OSCE Secretary General; Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) as Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Mr. Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; and Mr. Harlem Désir (France) as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Permanent Council meeting and congratulate them on respective appointments. I would like to wish all the success to all of you in your new capacities.

At the same time, we regretfully note the absence of fair geographical balance among leading representatives of the OSCE, not only among newly appointed heads of institutions, but also historically among previous incumbents since the very establishment of the OSCE. We hope that this practice will be halted in the future.

For this, we encourage to use a GRIP approach, where G stands for Gender Balance, R stands for Regional Balance, I stands for Interfaith Balance and P stands for Professional Balance.

From the procedural prospective, we note the “broad interpretation” of existing established practice of candidates’ nomination, although we understand that the Chairmanship has done that for the sake of consensus.

We call on all participating States to ensure further institutionalization of our Organization through the adoption of the OSCE Charter which will contain, *inter alia*, a clear

set of rules and procedures related to the processes of nomination, selection and appointment to the OSCE leading posts. We are confident that it will help us to avoid the burdens of last selection process in the year 2016–2017.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to all four decisions and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/3/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan):

“Our countries joined the consensus on the decisions by the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the appointment of the new OSCE Secretary General, the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and the new Representative on Freedom of the Media, the silence procedure for which expired on 18 July. Thus, from 19 July, Mr. Thomas Greminger assumed responsibilities as the new Secretary General, Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir as the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Lamberto Zannier as the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and Mr. Harlem Désir as the new Representative on Freedom of the Media. We congratulate them on their lofty appointments. We wish them every success in their responsible positions.

At the same time, we should like to point out the unacceptability of the situation in which throughout all the years of the OSCE’s existence there has never been a single representative of our countries in the leadership of its executive structures. Steps need to be taken to rectify such a bias, which contravenes the fundamental principles of the OSCE’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions of the Organization.

We trust that in future appointments to leading positions in the OSCE executive structures our concerns will be fully taken into account.

We hope that the aforementioned executive structures will work effectively in strict accordance with their mandates and taking into account the opinions of all participating States and also on the basis of a constructive approach on the part of the newly appointed heads.

I request that this statement be appended to all the decisions adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/3/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to be of the strong view that the OSCE executive structures and field missions are the common assets of all 57 OSCE participating States, providing that they act in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with their respective mandates and by no means harm the legitimate interests of participating States. Principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency, as well as scrupulous implementation of their respective mandates by heads of the institutions and field missions are the prerequisites for extending collective support of participating States to activities of OSCE institutions and field missions.

Furthermore, selection of the candidates for leadership positions within the Organization revealed once again already intolerable geographic imbalance in OSCE recruitment process. It underscored the urgent need to improve fair geographic representation within the Organization’s executive structures from unrepresented participating States.

The decision in no way sets a precedent and we strongly encourage the current Austrian and incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanships to submit promptly a proposal on establishing a mechanism that would ensure stronger application in practice of the principle of fair geographic distribution of posts in OSCE. This will help ensuring a sense of ownership of the Organization and rebuilding trust and confidence in the OSCE. Such a mechanism will assist participating States in proper planning and nominating candidates for vacancies, including for the next selection process of heads of OSCE executive structures.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/3/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of ODIHR.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the Director of ODIHR in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted our principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Austria:

“In line with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, we would like to make the following interpretative statement:

The appointments of the new heads of institutions and the new OSCE Secretary General are a crucial step towards ensuring the functionality and effectiveness of our Organization. They are a very important testimony to the interest of participating States in this Organization, its goals and values, and their ability to come to agreements on such important and political questions.

Therefore, we very much welcome the consensus reached on the appointments and we thank participating States for their support and spirit of compromise in this respect.

As expressed by the Chairperson-in-Office Minister Sebastian Kurz at the informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Mauerbach, we will continue to pay great attention to issues such as competence, gender, and the need for all parts of our area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, to be represented throughout our Organization.

The appointment of all four senior staff at the same time represents a unique situation and also an opportunity for a fresh start in the Organization in general and in the interaction between institutions and participating States in particular. In addition, it is an opportunity to further develop our culture of communication.

The Chairmanship acknowledges the need for the continuous improvement and further strengthening of the quality of dialogue between institutions and participating States. As a concrete measure, we will foster closer co-operation and regular contact with the newly appointed mandate holders. In this context, we deem the continuation of a process of reflection to be useful.

We would like to recall the priorities and principles of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, in particular rebuilding trust in our Organization and in our institutions. Based on these principles, we see the need to address any friction through dialogue. The Chairmanship is ready to facilitate this dialogue whenever necessary.

We call on the mandate holders to carry out their functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as in line with their respective mandates.

This interpretative statement will be attached to the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director of the ODIHR.”



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

MC.DEC/4/17
18 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 4/17
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 on the role of the OSCE Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/08 of 22 October 2008 on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General,

Reaffirming the necessity that the OSCE Secretary General carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE Secretary General,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides:

To appoint Mr. Thomas Greminger as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 19 July 2017.

MC.DEC/4/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of Ministerial Council decisions on the appointments of a new OSCE Secretary General and new heads of institutions.

We welcome the fact that eventually we reached consensus on this matter and appreciate all efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship regarding these appointments. Although, the decisions were not adopted in due time.

Let me warmly welcome Mr. Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) as OSCE Secretary General; Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) as Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Mr. Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; and Mr. Harlem Désir (France) as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Permanent Council meeting and congratulate them on respective appointments. I would like to wish all the success to all of you in your new capacities.

At the same time, we regretfully note the absence of fair geographical balance among leading representatives of the OSCE, not only among newly appointed heads of institutions, but also historically among previous incumbents since the very establishment of the OSCE. We hope that this practice will be halted in the future.

For this, we encourage to use a GRIP approach, where G stands for Gender Balance, R stands for Regional Balance, I stands for Interfaith Balance and P stands for Professional Balance.

From the procedural prospective, we note the “broad interpretation” of existing established practice of candidates’ nomination, although we understand that the Chairmanship has done that for the sake of consensus.

We call on all participating States to ensure further institutionalization of our Organization through the adoption of the OSCE Charter which will contain, *inter alia*, a clear

set of rules and procedures related to the processes of nomination, selection and appointment to the OSCE leading posts. We are confident that it will help us to avoid the burdens of last selection process in the year 2016–2017.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to all four decisions and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/4/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan):

“Our countries joined the consensus on the decisions by the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the appointment of the new OSCE Secretary General, the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and the new Representative on Freedom of the Media, the silence procedure for which expired on 18 July. Thus, from 19 July, Mr. Thomas Greminger assumed responsibilities as the new Secretary General, Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir as the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Lamberto Zannier as the new High Commissioner on National Minorities and Mr. Harlem Désir as the new Representative on Freedom of the Media. We congratulate them on their lofty appointments. We wish them every success in their responsible positions.

At the same time, we should like to point out the unacceptability of the situation in which throughout all the years of the OSCE’s existence there has never been a single representative of our countries in the leadership of its executive structures. Steps need to be taken to rectify such a bias, which contravenes the fundamental principles of the OSCE’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions of the Organization.

We trust that in future appointments to leading positions in the OSCE executive structures our concerns will be fully taken into account.

We hope that the aforementioned executive structures will work effectively in strict accordance with their mandates and taking into account the opinions of all participating States and also on the basis of a constructive approach on the part of the newly appointed heads.

I request that this statement be appended to all the decisions adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/4/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to be of the strong view that the OSCE executive structures and field missions are the common assets of all 57 OSCE participating States, providing that they act in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with their respective mandates and by no means harm the legitimate interests of participating States. Principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency, as well as scrupulous implementation of their respective mandates by heads of the institutions and field missions are the prerequisites for extending collective support of participating States to activities of OSCE institutions and field missions.

Furthermore, selection of the candidates for leadership positions within the Organization revealed once again already intolerable geographic imbalance in OSCE recruitment process. It underscored the urgent need to improve fair geographic representation within the Organization’s executive structures from unrepresented participating States.

The decision in no way sets a precedent and we strongly encourage the current Austrian and incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanships to submit promptly a proposal on establishing a mechanism that would ensure stronger application in practice of the principle of fair geographic distribution of posts in OSCE. This will help ensuring a sense of ownership of the Organization and rebuilding trust and confidence in the OSCE. Such a mechanism will assist participating States in proper planning and nominating candidates for vacancies, including for the next selection process of heads of OSCE executive structures.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/4/17
18 July 2017
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Thomas Greminger. We support the work of the Secretary General and the OSCE Secretariat.

We recall that the Secretary General derives his/her authority from the collective decisions of the participating States and acts under the guidance of the Chairman-in-Office. He or she is the Chief Administrative Officer of the OSCE, and is tasked, among other things, to act as the representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and support him or her in all activities aimed at fulfilling the goals of the OSCE. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to alter the mandate of the Secretary General or restrict the work of the Secretary General in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted our principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

PC.DEC/1264
20 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1264
EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO
TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No.1130 of 24 July 2014 on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.DEC/1130),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the deployment of OSCE observers to the two Russian border checkpoints of Donetsk and Gukovo on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 31 October 2017;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/31/17. In this respect, authorizes the use of 291,100 euros from the 2015 and 2016 cash surpluses to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 31 October 2017.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The delegation of Ukraine consistently reiterates the importance of having a substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border adjacent to certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine. It is not a matter of ‘goodwill’ on the part of Russia, but a matter of implementation of undertaken commitments.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, the Russian Federation undertook to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and its verification by the OSCE with the formation of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict, started by Russia.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation continues to oppose expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities. Such obstruction on the part of Russia can only be attributed to its unchanged position on continuing its aggression against Ukraine in Donbas, including by supplying heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring and financing terrorist acts in the territory of Ukraine. We emphasize that these actions by Russia constitute internationally wrongful acts, which entail international responsibility of the Russian Federation. We reiterate our call on Russia to cease these acts, to offer appropriate assurances of their non-repetition, as well as to make full reparation for the injury caused thereby.

In this connection the delegation of Ukraine recalls that Russia has not responded to requests for explanations on the OSCE SMM reported presence in the certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine of sophisticated modern Russian weapons and military equipment, including the jamming system R-330 'Zhitel', heavy flame-thrower system 'Buratino', portable flame-thrower 'Shmel', 'Grad P', UAV 'Orlan-10', used exclusively by the Russian armed forces.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith and to allow comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with establishment of a security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

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

“In connection with the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union’s views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Russian-Ukrainian State border are well known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of this border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments, which re-establishes full Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for permanent monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of Measures includes a commitment to reinstate full Ukrainian control over its entire international border.

The OSCE Observer Mission’s currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the Observer Mission to all border crossings on the Russia-Ukraine State border currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission and we reiterate the need for the SMM to be assured safe and unhindered access to all parts of the border currently not under Ukrainian government control since border and ceasefire monitoring are very closely interlinked. Further we underline the need for sufficient equipment for the Observer Mission in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist an expansion of the Observer Mission.”

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the extension of deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States finds it deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation continues to block the expansion of the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States to do so. We once again must accept an inadequate, limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which together account for only a few hundred meters of the 2,300 kilometre Ukrainian-Russian border, much of which Ukraine does not control.

Due to Russia’s unwarranted restrictions of the border observation mission’s work, the Mission will continue to be unable to ascertain the full extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of arms, funding, and personnel to support the so-called “separatists” in eastern Ukraine.

We note that point 4 of the Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and to create a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is to the detriment of all efforts to resolve the conflict that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission shows, once again, that it refuses to fulfil its Minsk commitments.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1264
20 July 2017
Attachment 4

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“The Russian Federation joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the latest extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border for three months (until 31 October 2017), regarding the work of this team as an additional voluntary confidence-building measure in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by the team’s mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014, which is based on the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 made in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine of 2 July 2014.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 does not mention the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. Nor is there any reference to this in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 and subsequently endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The decision to allow OSCE observers on Russian territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on Russia’s part.

With a view to granting privileges and immunities to the OSCE observers, Russia is willing to consider the possibility of their accreditation as diplomatic staff of embassies at the request of the seconding countries.

I request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”



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

PC.DEC/1265
20 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1265
AGENDA FOR THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph 9,

Recalling also its Decision No. 1256 (PC.DEC/1256) of 6 July 2017 on the dates and topics for the second part of the 2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM),

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

AGENDA FOR THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 11 to 22 September 2017

Monday, 11 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Opening plenary session
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 1: Fundamental freedoms I, including:
- Freedom of expression, free media and information

Tuesday, 12 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms I, including:
- Freedom of peaceful assembly and association
 - National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 3: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels
 - Democratic elections

Wednesday, 13 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 4 (specifically selected topic): Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 5 (specifically selected topic): Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life

Thursday, 14 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 6: Fundamental freedoms II, including:
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:
- Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination
 - Combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions
 - Prevention and responses to hate crimes in the OSCE area

Friday, 15 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 8 (specifically selected topic): Tolerance and non-discrimination
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic): Tolerance and non-discrimination

Monday, 18 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:
- Rights of persons belonging to national minorities
 - Roma and Sinti issues, including implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti
 - Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Humanitarian issues and other commitments:
- Combating trafficking in human beings
 - Refugees and displaced persons
 - Persons at risk of displacement

Tuesday, 19 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12: Rule of law I, including:
- Prevention of torture
 - Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment
 - Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13: Rule of law II, including:
- Right to a fair trial
 - Independence of the judiciary
 - Democratic law-making

Wednesday, 20 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14 (specifically selected topic): Economic, social and cultural rights as an answer to rising inequalities
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15 (specifically selected topic): Economic, social and cultural rights as an answer to rising inequalities

Thursday, 21 September 2017

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:
- Equality of opportunity for women and men
 - Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality
 - Prevention of violence against women and children
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Fundamental freedoms II, including:
- Freedom of movement
 - Migrant workers and the integration of legal migrants

Friday, 22 September 2017

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 18: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the participation of human rights directors, OSCE ambassadors and heads of OSCE institutions):

- Any other business
- Closing of the meeting



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

PC.DEC/
21 July 2017

Original: ENGLISH

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 7

**DECISION ON THE
TOPIC AND DATES OF THE HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR
IN WARSAW, SUBJECT TO A SILENCE PROCEDURE EXPIRING ON
WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017, AT 5 P.M. CET**

The Permanent Council,

Decides that the Human Dimension Seminar will take place in Warsaw on 11 and 12 October 2017 and will be devoted to the topic “Rights of the Child: Children in Situations of Risk”;

Tasks the ODIHR with elaborating the agenda and modalities of the Seminar.

1155th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1155, Agenda item 8

**DECISION ON THE
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR,
SUBJECT TO A SILENCE PROCEDURE EXPIRING ON
WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017, AT 5 P.M. CET**

(Warsaw, 11 and 12 October 2017)

Rights of the child: children in situations of risk

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote addresses
3. Discussion in three working groups:
 - Working group I: Children deprived of liberty
 - Working group II: Trafficking in children
 - Working group III: Strategies for preventing situations of risk
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Wednesday, 11 October 2017 at 10 a.m. It will close on Thursday, 12 October 2017 at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 12 October 2017, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.

4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Furthermore, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will also be taken into account.
7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

III. Work programme

Working hours: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

	Wednesday 11 October 2017	Thursday 12 October 2017
Morning	Opening plenary session Working group I	Working group II
Afternoon	Working group I cont.	Working group III Closing plenary session