



Chairmanship: Ireland

923rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 6 September 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 1.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. O’Leary
Ms. M. Feeney

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE, Ambassador Bruno Georges, the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE, Ambassador Fredrik Löjdquist, and the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the OSCE, Mr. Ismatullo Nasredinov.

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (PC.FR/19/12 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland 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 Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/814/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/802/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/823/12 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/810/12 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/819/12 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/813/12 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/812/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE FOR ARTICLE IV OF
ANNEX 1-B OF THE DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS,
MAJOR GENERAL M. TORRES

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accords (CIO.GAL/106/12 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/816/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/803/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/824/12 OSCE+), Italy, Turkey (PC.DEL/820/12 OSCE+), Montenegro (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) (PC.DEL/829/12 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Situation of members of the Roma community in participating States of the OSCE:* United States of America (PC.DEL/804/12), France (PC.DEL/822/12), Hungary, Romania
- (b) *Extradition from Hungary and subsequent pardoning of Mr. R. Safarov in Azerbaijan:* Armenia (Annex 1), Hungary (PC.DEL/809/12), France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/821/12), Azerbaijan (Annex 2), Chairperson
- (c) *Freedom of expression in the Russian Federation:* Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/817/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/805/12), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/811/12), Belarus, Chairperson, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/827/12)
- (d) *Recent developments in Tajikistan:* Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment)

(PC.DEL/815/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/806/12),
Russian Federation (PC.DEL/826/12), Tajikistan

- (e) *Situation in Belarus*: Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/818/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/807/12), Canada (PC.DEL/808/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/825/12), Belarus (PC.DEL/830/12)
- (f) *Presidential elections in the United States of America, to be held on 6 November 2012*: Belarus (PC.DEL/831/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/828/12/Corr.1)

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

Visit of the Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland, Ms. L. Creighton, to Moldova from 19 to 21 September 2012: Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Recent developments in Tajikistan*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)
- (b) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)*: Secretary General
- (c) *Second Mid-term Assessment of the OSCE Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan (PC.FR/18/12 OSCE+)*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Bled Strategic Forum held on 2 and 3 September 2012 in Bled, Slovenia*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)
- (e) *Visit of the Secretary General to Romania on 3 and 4 September 2012*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)
- (f) *Upcoming visits of the Secretary General to Kiev on 10 and 11 September 2012 and to Astana on 12 and 13 September 2012*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/168/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Co-operation between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly with regard to election observation: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/6/12 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Montenegro, to be held on 14 October 2012: Montenegro*
- (c) *Presidential elections in Slovenia, to be held on 11 November 2012: Slovenia (Annex 3)*
- (d) *Distribution of a food-for-thought paper entitled The Dublin Ministerial Council: A Framework for Decisions (CIO.GAL/107/12): Chairperson*
- (e) *Distribution of an invitation to the open-ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE (PC.GAL/106/12): Chairperson*
- (f) *Distribution of a perception paper on the review of human dimension events (CIO.GAL/112/12): Chairperson*
- (g) *OSCE ambassadorial visit to Yerevan and Baku, to take place from 6 to 11 September 2012: Chairperson*
- (h) *Concluding meeting of the 20th Economic and Environmental Forum on Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance, to be held in Prague from 12 to 14 September 2012: Chairperson*
- (i) *Workshop on responses to natural and man-made disasters, to be held on 17 September 2012: Chairperson*
- (j) *Announcement of the next meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee, to be held on 19 September 2012: Chairperson*
- (k) *Annual police experts meeting on fighting the threat of cybercrime, to be held in Vienna on 20 and 21 September 2012: Chairperson*
- (l) *Exhibition on the life and works of William Butler Yeats: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 20 September 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



923rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 3(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation would like to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the situation created by the joint action of the Governments of Hungary and Azerbaijan resulting in the transfer and release of the Azerbaijani officer Ramil Safarov, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Hungarian court in 2006 for his particularly brutal murder of the Armenian officer Gurgen Margaryan.

In response to this action Armenia has suspended its diplomatic relations with Hungary.

Azerbaijani official circles have glorified not only the criminal but the crime itself, suggesting that Ramil Safarov could serve as a good example for the younger Azerbaijani generation. Azerbaijan went to great lengths to bring about the transfer and release of the convict. At presidential, parliamentary speaker, prime ministerial, foreign ministerial and ambassadorial levels Armenia continuously drew the attention of Hungarian leadership to the inadmissibility of transferring the murderer, and the Hungarian side unequivocally ruled out any possibility of transfer many times before it finally took place.

The current Hungarian Government claims that it believed the false assurances of Azerbaijan that the murderer would serve the rest of his prison sentence in Azerbaijan. The decision to transfer the murderer was the result of a political process conducted in a non-transparent and secret manner at the highest political level of the two countries, as has been admitted by the head of the presidential staff of Azerbaijan. The simple fact that the communication dated 31 August 2012 of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary under the title "Ramil Sahib Safarov will serve the rest of his imprisonment term in Azerbaijan" was released after the pardon is very revealing.

The people of Armenia cherish their centuries-old friendly relations with the people of Hungary, with whom they and particularly the Armenian community share historic ties. The reaction, statements and protests of thousands of Hungarians, religious leaders, NGOs and political organizations against the action of their current government, and their expressions of support for Armenia, indicate that the centuries-old tradition of friendship will overcome the test to which it is being subjected to.

We have taken attentive and appreciative note of the various statements on the part of the international community that have expressed concern and regret and have condemned the pardon granted by the President of Azerbaijan. We would like to recall only one of them now. When joining his voice to the international condemnation of the glorification of the terrible crime, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe expressed his deep disappointment at the fact that the release of the perpetrator took place through the abusive use of a legal instrument of the Council of Europe. There were strong condemnations of the deal by the three Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, backed up by several other condemnations from international structures and individual countries. Armenia now expects an unequivocal position to be taken by the OSCE and its relevant structures, on the basis of the OSCE values and principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

The practice of encouraging hate crimes against Armenians is not something new in the policy of the Azerbaijani leadership. On various occasions the Azerbaijani leadership has used racist and xenophobic language aimed at the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, at those living in Armenia itself, and most recently at Armenians all over the world.

However, the case of Ramil Safarov is shocking even for a country with such a negative human rights record. Immediately after arriving in Baku, Ramil Safarov was promoted to the rank of major, received his salary from the Ministry of Defence for the period he served in the prison, was awarded a new apartment, and was welcomed as a national hero.

The pardoning, official promotion and nationwide glorification of the Azerbaijani serviceman are evidence of who stood behind his crimes. They also show that Azerbaijan cannot be regarded as a reliable partner in bilateral and multilateral relations, particularly when it comes to delivering on such commitments as the OSCE commitments on fighting hate crimes.

Moreover, this action is in outrageous contradiction to the joint statement by the Heads of Delegation of the countries of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in 2011 in Astana, which emphasized the urgent need for confidence-building measures to prepare populations for peace, and furthermore violates the joint statement by the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan adopted in January 2012 in Sochi: in both cases the President of Azerbaijan himself agreed to work towards confidence-building. The action goes against the statements on Nagorno-Karabakh made by the Presidents of the countries of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group during the G8 Summits in L'Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville and Los Cabos.

The present situation gravely harms the peace process and the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to seek a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While the demonstrative and vulgar steps taken by the Azeri Government in releasing and glorifying the murderer have shocked the international community, the latest reactions from Azerbaijan are no less shocking. In fact, Azerbaijan is

expressing its cynical contempt of international law and of the international community in general.

Let me assure that Armenia stands ready to work closely with all interested parties who condemn hate crimes and looks to the future in a spirit of peace and reconciliation.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/923
6 September 2012
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

923rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 3(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to respond to the statements made by the delegations of Armenia, France on behalf of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, and Cyprus on behalf of the EU.

Azerbaijan considers the matter in question to be a bilateral issue that was discussed and implemented by Azerbaijan and Hungary in accordance with the national legislation of the respective countries and in full compliance with 1983 Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Ramil Safarov, a national of Azerbaijan, was extradited to Azerbaijan after having been in prison for more than eight years and was pardoned by the President of Azerbaijan, who in so doing was exercising his constitutional right.

Our delegation considers this issue raised by some delegations as excessively politicized and not related to the OSCE agenda. I would prefer to stop here rather than going any further on this issue.

Mr. Chairperson, I reserve the right to come back at a subsequent meeting on the comments made by the distinguished Ambassador of Hungary.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/923
6 September 2012
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

923rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 6(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Slovenia would like to inform the Permanent Council that presidential elections will be held in Slovenia on 11 November 2012.

In accordance with the commitments Slovenia has undertaken within the framework of the OSCE, in particular the 1990 Copenhagen commitments with respect to elections, we take this opportunity before the Permanent Council to extend an invitation to the OSCE participating States, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and all other relevant organizations and institutions to observe the elections.

Thank you for your kind attention.