

Chairmanship: Sweden

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1341st Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Monday, 25 October 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 4.05 p.m.

Closed: 4.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE TOPIC AND DATES OF THE 2021 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1416 (PC.DEC/1416) on the topic and dates of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2021 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1417 (PC.DEC/1417) on the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson (Annex), Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 28 October, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1341
25 October 2021
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

1341st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1341, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairmanship would like to thank all participating States for their efforts in reaching consensus for the adoption of the decisions on the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar.

We attach the utmost importance to the space for civil society and the invaluable role, engagement in and contribution to the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments they provide, in order to ensure lasting stability, security and prosperity for our region.

The Swedish Chairmanship is therefore fully committed to providing opportunities for the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in OSCE meetings and activities, as also collectively agreed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992. The above provisions will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence, as per paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Should questions arise concerning the application of paragraph 16, Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992 for the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar, the Swedish Chairmanship is ready to assume responsibility for possible final decisions on the matter, in line with OSCE documents and decisions and following consultations with interested participating States, in a transparent manner, to ensure that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account. Any such possible decision by the Swedish Chairmanship will be limited to and valid only for the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar and is without prejudice to possible future participation in OSCE meetings and activities. In closing, the Swedish Chairmanship would also like to thank all participating States for their constructive contributions to the discussion in the Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation at OSCE Events, chaired by Ambassador Siniša Bencun, and therefore sees merit in continuing our deliberations also in this format.

Please note that this statement will be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.DEC/1416
25 October 2021

Original: ENGLISH

1341st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1341, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 1416
TOPIC AND DATES OF THE 2021 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

The Permanent Council,

Decides that the Human Dimension Seminar will take place in Warsaw on 16 and 17 November 2021 and will be devoted to the topic “Preventing and combating violence against women and girls”.

1341st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1341, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 1417
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2021 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

(Warsaw, 16 and 17 November 2021)

Preventing and combating violence against women and girls

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote addresses
3. Discussion in three working groups:
 - Working group I: Violence against women: recent trends;
 - Working group II: Violence against women in political and public life;
 - Working group III: Violence against women belonging to vulnerable groups, in particular migrants, refugees and displaced persons, and persons at risk of displacement.
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Tuesday, 16 November 2021, at 10 a.m. It will close on Wednesday, 17 November 2021, at 4 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Seminar will be held in Warsaw and online.

4. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 17 November 2021, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
5. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
6. A representative of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) will chair the plenary sessions.
7. 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.
8. 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.

	Tuesday 16 November 2021	Wednesday 17 November 2021
Morning	Opening plenary session Working group I	Working group III
Afternoon	Working group II	Closing plenary session

**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 Turkey:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decisions just adopted on the topic and dates as well as the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar, the Republic of Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The OSCE, with its comprehensive and co-operative concept of security, is a unique international platform in an era where effective multilateralism becomes increasingly needed.

Turkey attaches the utmost importance to the work of the human dimension, which constitutes an indispensable component of the comprehensive security concept of the OSCE. The Human Dimension Seminar is a significant event thereof. The participation of representatives of civil society enriches OSCE human dimension meetings. Turkey values their work and contribution to the advancement of the OSCE commitments.

The OSCE, as a security organization intended to serve and advance the security of its participating States, including Turkey, must not offer a platform to the extensions of terrorist organizations. On the contrary, the OSCE has to remain a platform to strengthen our co-operation in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism is a crime against humanity, thus it requires joint action and efforts, and, particularly within the OSCE, complying with the commitments agreed by all 57 participating States.

Turkey has made its concerns with the participation of terror affiliates in OSCE human dimension meetings abundantly clear. Turkey has expressed its expectations on this matter on numerous occasions.

The clear rules in paragraph 16, Chapter IV, 1992 Helsinki Document and Permanent Council Decision No. 476 (2002), Annex 3, paragraph 3 must be implemented.

While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the current and previous Chairpersons of the Informal Working Group on the implementation of paragraph 16 of the said Document, as well as the initial work achieved by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Reflection Process, Turkey believes that these efforts need to be redoubled in order to reach a lasting solution as early as possible.

Turkey takes note of the Swedish Chairmanship's statement declaring its readiness to assume responsibility for taking final decisions should questions arise concerning the application of paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Turkey joins consensus on the two decisions related to the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar with the understanding that the Chairmanship will not allow the participation of persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence to the meeting. Thus, Turkey assumes that the situation where entities linked to terrorism were allowed to participate in the Human Dimension Seminar will not be repeated again.

Turkey will closely follow the preparations of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar. Turkey expects that its legitimate concerns will be addressed in a concrete and satisfactory manner by means of full implementation of paragraph 16, thereby also complying with our shared principles and commitments, particularly those related to the fight against terrorism. Non-implementation of paragraph 16 and non-compliance with our shared values and principles would jeopardize the credibility of our Organization and undermine the rules and commitments of the OSCE.

In light of the above-mentioned, Turkey will not hesitate to take any action it deems necessary within the OSCE.

Madam Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision and also included in the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1417
25 October 2021
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:

“In joining the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decisions on the holding of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar, it is our understanding that the format of the event falls under the organizational modalities for OSCE meetings. In accordance with paragraph VI(A)2 of the Rules of the Procedure of the OSCE, ‘[t]he participating States shall adopt decisions regarding the time, venue, theme(s), agenda, timetable and organizational modalities for each OSCE meeting or for a series of OSCE meetings.’ The Russian Federation also emphasizes that the decisions being adopted by the participating States must fully reflect the real state of affairs in terms of the event format.

The Russian Federation continues to take the position that the themes and organizational modalities of key OSCE events on human dimension issues – including the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the aforementioned Seminar and the three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings – should be seen as making up a single ‘package’. When agreeing on the programme of events on human dimension issues for a year, it is essential to provide for a balanced discussion of all categories of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In accordance with Chapter IV, paragraph (16), of the CSCE Helsinki Document (1992), the provisions for creating opportunities for the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in CSCE activities ‘will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence’. At the same time, civil society representatives, including NGOs with experience in safeguarding and protecting human rights, should have unhindered access to the human dimension meetings.

We request that this statement be attached to the adopted decisions and included in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.”