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**Chairmanship: Sweden****1319th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 6.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered  
Ambassador T. Lorentzson

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK AND BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (PC.FR/19/21 OSCE+) (PC.FR/22/21 OSCE+), Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/919/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/887/21), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/908/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/882/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/884/21 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/893/21 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Norway (PC.DEL/888/21), Tajikistan, Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE, MS. MARIJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ

Chairperson, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (PC.DEL/905/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/922/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/897/21), Hungary (PC.DEL/889/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/911/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/894/21 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/902/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/890/21), Kazakhstan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/892/21 OSCE+), North Macedonia (PC.DEL/910/21 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/906/21 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/915/21), Germany (PC.DEL/913/21), Ukraine

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/886/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/923/21), United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/885/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/909/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/883/21), Canada
- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/891/21), Ukraine, Romania
- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters:* Armenia (Annex 1)
- (d) *Recent developments in Belarus:* Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/921/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/895/21), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/903/21 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/896/21 OSCE+), Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/904/21 OSCE+), Lithuania
- (e) *Shrinking space for civil society in the Russian Federation:* Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/920/21), United States

of America (PC.DEL/898/21), United Kingdom, Norway (PC.DEL/907/21), Canada, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/901/21 OSCE+)

- (f) *Continuous threats to civilians, including journalists, caused by mines planted by Armenia in the territory of Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan (Annex 2), Turkey (PC.DEL/912/21 OSCE+)*

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

- (a) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in a virtual hearing of the US Helsinki Commission, held via video teleconference on 10 June 2021: Chairperson*
- (b) *Visit by the Chairperson-in-Office to Ukraine, to take place on 14 and 15 June 2021: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the Secretary General's weekly report (SEC.GAL/78/21 OSCE+): Secretary General*
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Security Dialogue on "Regional Security Arrangements: Collective Security Treaty Organization" at the 979th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, held via video teleconference on 9 June 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/78/21 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Visit by the Secretary General to Georgia, to take place on 14 and 15 June 2021: Secretary General*
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Senior Management retreat, to be held on 11 June 2021: Secretary General, Italy*
- (e) *Announcement by the Secretary General of the upcoming thematic report on Youth and Security: Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE, Ambassador B. Dzhusupov: Chairperson, Kyrgyzstan*
- (b) *Twenty-fourth St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, held from 2 to 5 June 2021: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/900/21)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 17 June 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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**1319th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1319, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

The trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020 stopped the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh with the direct involvement of Turkey and Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters. However, only a month after the signing of the document, Azerbaijan grossly violated, as it still continues to violate, a number of key provisions of the trilateral statement, in particular, paragraph 1 on a complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities and the commitment of the parties to remain at the positions they held at the time of the signing, paragraph 8 on exchange of prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons and bodies of the dead. By demolishing the houses and property of Armenians in the territories currently occupied by Azerbaijan, thus obstructing the safe and dignified return of the displaced Armenians, Azerbaijan also violates paragraph 7 on the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent areas under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

On 11 December 2020, just a month after the signing of the ceasefire declaration, the Azerbaijani armed forces, in flagrant violation of their commitments under the trilateral statement, attacked the positions of the Armenian self-defence forces in the area of the villages of Hin Tagher and Khtsaberd of the Hadrut region of Artsakh and occupied the two villages and the adjacent territories. The operational maps released by the peacekeepers on 13 and 14 December clearly confirm the violation of the ceasefire and the occupation of the two villages by Azerbaijan. They also confirm that the Armenian forces were in the positions that they held at the time of the signing of the trilateral statement. This delegation is ready to provide the aforementioned operational maps to all interested delegations. It should also be recalled that as a result of this flagrant violation of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan, 64 Armenian servicemen were captured by the Azerbaijani armed forces. There can be no doubt that the 64 Armenian servicemen fall under the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and they must be released and repatriated unconditionally and without delay in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law.

However, taking advantage of their impunity, the Azerbaijani authorities continue their cynical manipulations with regard to the Armenian prisoners of war. They have fabricated criminal proceedings and conducted mock trials of Armenian prisoners of war on the basis of confessions obtained under duress and on trumped-up charges. The fact that the

Azerbaijani side announced the criminal prosecution of the Armenian prisoners of war about a month after their capture clearly indicates that the Azerbaijani authorities are trying to use them as a tool to exert pressure and advance their political agenda.

On 9 March 2021, the European Court of Human Rights decided to notify the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 39 of the Rules of Court, of interim measures in relation to 188 Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions have jointly emphasized that “everyone deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the conflict should be returned to their homes” as stipulated in the ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020.

On 20 May, the European Parliament adopted a resolution which, among other things, “demands the immediate and unconditional release of all Armenian prisoners, both military and civilian, detained during and after the conflict, and that Azerbaijan refrain from making arbitrary detentions in the future”. The resolution further “recalls that there is currently no publicly available credible information about Azerbaijani POWs and detainees in Armenian captivity”.

The fact that despite the numerous calls from the international community, including the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Azerbaijan continues to illegally detain the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians, subjecting them to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, causes particular concern and is indicative of the real intentions of Azerbaijan. We have already presented to the Permanent Council the detailed facts about the torture and arbitrary killing of 19 Armenian captives, 12 of whom were civilians, including 4 women.

Madam Chairperson,

Armenia strongly condemns the illegal criminal prosecution of Lyudvik Mkrtychyan and Alyosha Khosrovyan captured during the recent aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh. According to international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions, the latter are considered prisoners of war and must be released and repatriated unconditionally and without delay. The mock trial launched on 2 June by the Baku Military Court is a gross violation both of the norms of international humanitarian law and of commitments under the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020.

Another mock trial took place on 8 June 2021 in the Yasamal District Court of Baku, during which Mr. Vicken Euljekchyan was charged with “terrorism” on the basis of trumped-up charges and confession obtained under duress. It should be noted that Mr. Vicken Euljekchyan, who has dual Armenian and Lebanese citizenship, moved to Artsakh after the devastating explosion in Beirut. He was captured by the Azerbaijani forces on 10 November 2020 along with Ms. Maral Najaryan – you probably all remember Ms. Najaryan – who was later released thanks to the efforts of Ms. Valentina Matviyenko, the Chairwoman of the Federation Council of Russia. They were captured while trying to collect

their belongings from occupied Shushi after the signing of the trilateral ceasefire declaration. However, this did not prevent Azerbaijan from labelling them as terrorists.

Armenian prisoners of war are clearly deprived of the right to a fair trial. They are also subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. In this regard, and in the light of a recent press release of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) expressing concern regarding the alleged failure of one OSCE participating State to meet its obligations to respect the right to a fair trial and the absolute prohibition of torture, my delegation wonders why the ODIHR did not make a similar statement in relation to the Armenian prisoners of war. We urge the ODIHR to demonstrate consistency with respect to the application of principles of international law and OSCE commitments.

Madam Chairperson,

Given the abundant evidence of the continuing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and psychological pressure to which the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians held in Azerbaijan are subjected, we reiterate that evidence and confessions obtained through unlawful means, including torture and ill-treatment, constitute a gross violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and cannot serve as a basis for prosecution, nor can they have any probative value.

Azerbaijan's infamous human rights record is well known. For decades, the judicial system of Azerbaijan under the hereditary regime has fabricated numerous criminal cases on trumped-up charges against persons who dared to criticize the regime. If the judicial system of Azerbaijan were independent, first of all, it should have prosecuted those who committed atrocities and war crimes both during the war of the 1990s and last year's war against Artsakh, especially since the perpetrators themselves documented their crimes and made them public on the Internet.

Madam Chairperson,

Over the past seven months, Armenia has implemented all its commitments under the trilateral statement in good faith and has returned all prisoners of war and other detainees to Azerbaijan on an "all-for-all" basis. However, Azerbaijan's consistent and deliberate violations of the trilateral statement seriously undermine the full implementation of the 9 November statement and pose new challenges for regional peace and security.

In addition, the Azerbaijani armed forces, illegally present on the sovereign territory of Armenia since 12 May, continue their provocative and destabilizing actions in a number of areas. As we have already informed the Permanent Council, the provocative and deliberate actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces resulted in the murder of an Armenian soldier who was on duty in the immediate vicinity of the village of Verin Shorzha in Armenia's Gegharkunik province. In the early morning of 27 May, six Armenian servicemen who had been carrying out engineering work in the border area of the Gegharkunik province of the Republic of Armenia were taken prisoner by Azerbaijani armed forces. The European Court of Human Rights has set Azerbaijan the deadline of 4 June to provide information about the status of the six Armenian servicemen abducted by Azerbaijan in the border area of Armenia's Gegharkunik province.

The recently captured Armenian servicemen, as well as all prisoners of war and civilians illegally detained in Azerbaijan, must be immediately and unconditionally returned to Armenia. The Armenian Government is trying to resolve the situation peacefully to avoid further escalation and destabilization in the region. However, the restraint of the Armenian side should not be seen as a manifestation of tolerance towards attempts to seize its sovereign territory and kidnap its citizens.

Madam Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation on the ground remains dire and requires the urgent attention and intervention of the international community. As a result of Azerbaijan's large-scale aggression against Artsakh, over 100,000 people in Artsakh have been displaced and become refugees, and their property damaged, destroyed or looted. A significant part of the displaced population cannot return even after the ceasefire, since their settlements on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh proper are currently under the occupation of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's attempts to obstruct international humanitarian access to Nagorno-Karabakh amid the dire humanitarian consequences and suffering inflicted on the people of Artsakh as a result of the war and the COVID-19 pandemic are of particular concern. In this regard, we reiterate the urgent need to lift all restrictions on access to Nagorno-Karabakh, including access for representatives of international humanitarian organizations.

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of the flagrant violation by Azerbaijan of several core principles of the Helsinki Final Act, namely, refraining from the threat or use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. There should be no illusion that the results of the use of force, accompanied by war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, can ever become the basis for a lasting and sustainable peace. Durable and sustainable peace in the region can only be achieved through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include the determination of the status of Artsakh on the basis of the realization of the inalienable right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination; the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of the displaced population to their homes; and the preservation of the region's cultural and religious heritage.

Madam Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1319

10 June 2021

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1319th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1319, Agenda item 3(f)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council the latest tragic loss of innocent lives as a result of the explosion of a mine planted by Armenia in the territory of Azerbaijan.

The explosion of an anti-tank mine took place in the Susuzlug village of the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan on 4 June 2021 when representatives of different mass media outlets were carrying out their professional duties. As a result of the explosion, Siraj Abishov from the AzTV Broadcasting Company, Maharram Ibrahimov from the AZERTAG State Information Agency and Arif Aliyev, a representative of the local executive power, were killed; four other civilians were seriously injured. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan has initiated a criminal case under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan. The investigation is ongoing.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims and pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded.

Azerbaijan takes positive note of and welcomes the statement of the Representative on Freedom of the Media on the death of Azerbaijani journalists, expressing hope that the investigation launched by the law enforcement agencies will ensure full accountability for their death. At the same time, we underline the need for more targeted statements, pointing at the root causes of the threat that keeps claiming the lives of civilians, including journalists. In a similar vein, we welcome the statements and reactions by other international organizations, including the Director-General of UNESCO, who condemned the deaths of Azerbaijani journalists and stated that journalists must be able to exercise their profession without risk to their personal safety, as well as of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, underlining the urgent need to demine the areas affected by the conflict.

Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation that put an end to the armed conflict and created a unique chance for bringing about sustainable peace and stability to the region, 20 civilians have been killed; around 140 people including 29 civilians have received various



injuries as a result of the explosion of mines laid on a massive scale by Armenia in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan.

The latest tragic mine incident once again testifies to the seriousness of the threat emanating from the massive contamination of territories of Azerbaijan with land mines and other explosive devices. In this regard, it is deplorable that Armenia continues to refuse to provide maps of the mines it laid on a massive scale in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This constitutes a clear violation of this country's obligations under customary international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Failure to do so leads to further loss of innocent lives, as last week's tragic death of Azerbaijani civilians vividly demonstrated.

It must be stressed that Armenia's armed forces continued their deliberate and large-scale planting of mines after the signing of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement before the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territories of Azerbaijan according to the relevant provisions of the statement. In this context, we draw attention to the fact that the most recent mine explosion took place in the village from where the armed forces of Armenia withdrew under the trilateral statement. This area was not a zone of military operations and there was no necessity to plant mines there. We remind the Permanent Council that after the signing of the trilateral statement Armenia asked for a ten-day extension for the withdrawal of its troops from the Kalbajar district on allegedly humanitarian considerations. Yet, as it can be seen now, Armenia exploited this period to plant new mines in the area. The recent interview of a colonel of the Armenian armed forces, Korun Gumashyan, in which he openly admitted to having used 17 trucks of mines to mine around 500–600 hectares of territory in the Kalbajar and Lachin districts, supports this view. Thus, the mine which exploded most recently was supposedly laid by Armenia during its withdrawal from the area with a view to inflict as much damage as possible to Azerbaijan and create additional obstacles for the civilian population returning to their homes.

Armenia did not cease the deplorable practice of laying new mines even after more than half a year since the signing of the trilateral statement and the end of hostilities. In this regard, we remind the Permanent Council that on 27 May 2021 a group of the armed forces of Armenia was detained while infiltrating into the territory of Azerbaijan in the direction of the Kalbajar district in an attempt to plant new mines on the roads in the area. This act of sabotage once again demonstrated that Armenia continues to pose a serious threat to the lives and security of both military servicemen and civilians, and deliberately chooses to aggravate the situation in the region. Mischaracterization by the Armenian delegation in its today's statement of the acute mine problem that causes deaths and injuries to civilians as "fake narratives on mine maps" is a fresh example of the sense of impunity of Armenia. It demonstrates that this country has chosen the path of confronting common sense, international law, humanity and the common position of the international community. This stance of Armenia is further encouraged by the absence of targeted condemnation of Armenia's actions.

These provocations by Armenia represent a clear violation of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. It is counterproductive and undermines the fragile peace that emerged after the signing of the statement. Against this background, biased statements by some participating States calling to release Armenian servicemen, including members of the aforementioned sabotage group, without even condemning their outrageous actions, serve

only to further encourage Armenia to revanchism and to hold on to its unconstructive position.

We stress once again that Azerbaijan does not detain any Armenian servicemen without due legal process, which is continuing and regarding which we give updates to the Permanent Council. Those detainees who committed crimes on the territory of Azerbaijan face criminal charges; others, as was the case with the Armenian serviceman Artur Kartanyan, who, on 8 June, apparently, accidentally crossed into the territory of Azerbaijan in the Lachyn district, are returned to Armenia.

The massive mine contamination impedes the implementation of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and re-integration plans aimed at ensuring the realization of the inalienable right of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and dignity. The release of mine maps by Armenia would present an opportunity to consolidate the fragile peace in the region, enhance trust and confidence between the former sides to the conflict and contribute to the post-conflict reconciliation and normalization of inter-State relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The current behaviour of Armenia, on the contrary, continues to be a major hindrance to the realization of the vision of sustainable peace, security and co-operation in the region.

This irresponsible attitude of Armenia is particularly deplorable against the background of the fact that Azerbaijani servicemen, guided by humanitarian principles, have been risking and actually losing their lives due to the explosion of mines laid by Armenia during search operations for the bodies of deceased Armenian servicemen alongside with Russian peacekeepers and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We remind that, thus far, the bodies of about 1,600 Armenian servicemen have been retrieved and handed over to the Armenian side.

Given the scale and gravity of mine contamination in Azerbaijan, there is an urgent need for an international response in order to prevent further human losses, to enable hundreds of thousands of internationally displaced persons to finally return to their homes and to seize a unique opportunity for bringing about sustainable peace and stability to the region that emerged with the signing of the trilateral statement. This is a serious humanitarian and human rights issue exposing a dire need for an adequate international response and assistance.

At a time, when landmines planted by Armenia in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan pose a continuous threat to human life on a daily basis, Armenia's refusal to provide information on the location of landmines, as well as attempts to plant new mines in the area, must receive due assessment by the international community and be resolutely condemned. Thus, we call on the international community not to turn a blind eye to Armenia's gross violations of its international obligations and exert pressure on Armenia to release the maps of the mined areas in order to prevent further human suffering and loss of innocent lives.

The OSCE participating States, including the Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group, who have been calling on Azerbaijan to release all so-called prisoners of war remaining in its custody and thus indulging in Armenia's distortion of the facts and false accusations against Azerbaijan on this issue, should be more vocal in condemning the

growing cases of deaths as a result of the explosion of mines laid by Armenia, calling on Armenia to release the maps of mines and abandon the attempts to plant new mines along the State border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.