

---

**Chairmanship: Italy****1182nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 19 April 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 1 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.  
Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni  
Ambassador L. Fratini

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.FR/9/18/Corr.1 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/464/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/445/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/485/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/454/18/Rev.1 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/446/18), Norway (PC.DEL/450/18), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/486/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

(a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/452/18/Corr.1), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; 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/465/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/457/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/471/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/448/18), Canada (PC.DEL/487/18 OSCE+), Hungary (PC.DEL/449/18 OSCE+)

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/472/18), Ukraine
- (c) *Discrimination in sport:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/455/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/451/18), Ukraine
- (d) *The ODIHR's election observation methodology:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/473/18) (PC.DEL/474/18), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/467/18/Rev.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/453/18), Canada, Sweden (Annex 1), Norway (PC.DEL/477/18), Chairperson
- (e) *Freedom of expression in the Russian Federation:* Bulgaria-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 and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/466/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/460/18), Canada (PC.DEL/488/18 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/476/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/458/18 OSCE+)
- (f) *Early presidential election in Azerbaijan, held on 11 April 2018:* Bulgaria-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; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/468/18), Turkmenistan, United States of America (PC.DEL/456/18), Georgia (PC.DEL/475/18 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/483/18 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/461/18), Kyrgyzstan, Belarus (PC.DEL/484/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/481/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/470/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- (g) *Response by Tajikistan to statements made in reaction to the concerns about freedom of expression and the detention of Mr. K. Mirsaidov in Tajikistan expressed at the 1181st meeting of the Permanent Council, held on 12 April 2018:* Tajikistan (PC.DEL/490/18 OSCE+)

- (h) *Constitutional policing in the United States of America*: United States of America (PC.DEL/463/18), Russian Federation

Agenda item 3:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Preparatory Committee Focused Discussion meeting on the Report and recommendations by the Chairperson of the process, Ambassador C. Wild (Switzerland), to the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Ambassador A. Azzoni (Italy), on how to implement paragraph 16, Chapter IV, Helsinki Document 1992, when a specific case is raised by a participating State, to be held on 20 April 2018*: Chairperson
- (b) *Briefing on the process for the resolution of the issue of the scales of contributions for 2018 and 2019*: Chairperson, France (Annex 2)
- (c) *12th annual meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network on modern approaches to border security and management in the face of emerging transnational threats and challenges in the OSCE area, held on 12 and 13 April 2018*: Chairperson
- (d) *Winners of the OSCE GEMS Award (for young green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean making a social impact), to be announced on 26 April 2018*: Chairperson
- (e) *Financial contribution by Italy to OSCE projects in the western Balkans*: Chairperson

Agenda item 4:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Reinvigoration of the Informal Working Group on Scales of Contributions*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (b) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia on 18 April 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (c) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Founder and Chair of the NGO "Inclusive Security" on 18 April 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the German Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control on 17 April 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)

- (e) *Visit of the Secretary General to Switzerland on 12 and 13 April 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (f) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the new Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Ambassador M. Mezghani, on 10 April 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (g) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/70/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/70/18/Add.1 OSCE+): Secretary General*
- (h) *Request for clarification on the dates and venues of upcoming OSCE Security Days events: Canada, Secretary General*

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Presidential election in Montenegro, held on 15 April 2018: Montenegro (PC.DEL/478/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/469/18)*
- (b) *Early parliamentary elections in Slovenia, to be held on 3 June 2018: Slovenia (PC.DEL/480/18)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 26 April 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



---

**1182nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1182, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some comments in my national capacity as my country was mentioned by the Russian delegation.

As a response to the statement of the Russian delegation, I would first of all like to take this opportunity to underline the value Sweden puts on the practice of exchanging information about concerns regarding our election-related OSCE commitments. Sweden is a firm friend of the OSCE commitments and we are striving hard to make sure that all OSCE participating States, including ourselves, abide by the OSCE *acquis*.

Sweden has full confidence in the ODIHR and its long-standing and well-established election observation methodology, which is globally recognized. It is applied in the same unbiased manner in all participating States, always based on thorough needs assessments. This is not a question of striking some kind of artificial balance between the so-called east of Vienna and the so-called west of Vienna, but about applying the election observation methodology, which is based on the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism, in an unbiased manner. Again, we have full confidence in the ODIHR in this regard. As per my statement in this Council last week and the note verbale circulated, Sweden invites the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and all participating States to observe the Swedish general elections. We welcome and applaud the advice and support the ODIHR provides to all of us as participating States.

For Sweden, the functioning of the election system is of the greatest importance. The voters' confidence in the system, the possibility for the voters to make informed choices and a high and equal voter participation are all fundamental for the legitimacy of our democratic system. Therefore, we are happy to see that the Swedish election system enjoys a high degree of confidence among the Swedish citizens.

The Russian delegation has questioned the invitation of international observers during the previous Swedish elections. In the Swedish system, there is no restriction for either international visitors, organizations, private persons or individual countries to observe the election process. Since the voting and counting processes are open to the public, no special permission or accreditation is needed. Anyone may therefore observe voting and counting, as long as the observation does not intervene with the process.

In addition, in accordance with our OSCE commitments, we also invite international observers. Before the elections in 2010, Sweden invited the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and all OSCE participating States, in line with our commitments.

The OSCE/ODHIR's Need Assessment Mission noted in their report, ahead of the 2010 elections in Sweden, that there was a profound confidence of political parties in the integrity of the electoral process and in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. No significant concerns were expressed related to the functioning of democratic institutions, the respect for fundamental freedoms, the transparency of the electoral process, candidate registration, the campaign environment, media access and election day proceedings. Hence, and despite the fact that Sweden at that time lacked binding rules on transparency regarding party financing, the Mission did not recommend election-related activities.

In the elections in 2014, Sweden issued an invitation to participating States, the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other appropriate institutions and organizations both in writing, and orally, here in this room, at the Permanent Council on 10 April 2014. It is true that a group of international observers noted the issue on how ballot papers are distributed in the polling stations and in other public places. However, at the same time, the observers noted that this was not a serious criticism on the legitimacy of the election itself.

As noted earlier, Sweden takes legitimate criticism on our election system seriously and we are striving to improve our methods. That is why some reforms have been implemented in 2015. For example, Sweden has increased security aspects for handling the material in the polling stations and a new training for election officials was introduced. This is believed to strengthen the resilience of our system.

To increase the openness in our democratic system, Sweden has also in 2014 introduced a new law regarding party financing. The new legislation was extended on 1 April 2018 so that the political parties and individual politicians are, on all political levels, requested to declare their income sources. There is also a ban against anonymous financial contributions.

As I previously mentioned: the voters' confidence in the system, the possibility for the voters to make informed choices and a high and equal voter participation are all fundamental for the legitimacy of our democratic system. The Swedish election system has for many years proved to enjoy this confidence of the Swedish citizens. It has proved to be resilient against different forms of inappropriate attempts of influence.

But lately, we have seen new threats towards the system, and towards the right of our voters to make their own well-informed choices. Swedish authorities are noticing an increasing number of attempts to spread disinformation. Amongst others, disinformation about our election system and our vote counting procedures. This is also what we have seen in other countries' elections during the last years. We take this threat of influence against our democratic system seriously.

I would like to have this statement attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



---

**1182nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1182, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

The French delegation thanks you for this presentation. Revising the Scales of Contributions is an important issue for our Organization, for its functioning and credibility. It has also become a very pressing matter. Since the expiry of the previous scales on 31 December 2017, which had been renewed without change over the last 12 years, there is no commonly agreed basis regulating participating States' compulsory contributions. All of this, in our view, makes revising the scales part of the reform that the OSCE should undertake.

Revising the Scales of Contributions is not an issue of interest to France alone, even if we are one of several delegations, among the principal contributors, who place great importance on this matter and do our best to make progress on discussions that have already continued for too long.

In this context, we should like to present the following remarks.

1. We thank and congratulate the Italian Chairmanship for its decision to ask the Secretariat to postpone for several weeks the calls for contributions for the second tranche of the 2018 Unified Budget and the first tranche of the 2018–2019 budget of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in order to agree on an interim solution regarding the Scales of Contributions for 2018 and establish consensus on this proposal. We believe that this decision is the only legally valid and politically acceptable course of action in the current context.
2. As the Italian Chairmanship has just noted, it is now time to resume without delay work on reform, which could be pursued within an informal working group bolstered in our capitals and not working in Vienna alone. In this respect, we welcome the plan to organize a first meeting in Rome.
3. In parallel to this relaunch of negotiations, we are ready to give our agreement to the proposal for a decision provisionally reinstating the previous Scales of Contributions through to 31 December 2018 on the model of Permanent Council Decision No. 671 of 2005. This

decision should mention a retroactive readjustment of each participating State's contributions for 1 January 2018 once the revised Scales of Contributions have been adopted.

4. Regarding our conditions for approving a decision to reinstate the previous Scales of Contributions for the single year of 2018, we should like to make the following positions known to the Chairmanship:

- The decision on provisional reinstatement, on condition of a readjustment of the previous scales, should not exceed one year in duration, with retroactivity, and apply for the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;
- After ten years of fruitless discussions, simply resuming the work of the informal working group in Vienna is not enough. At the very least, this work should be supported in parallel by a higher-level process involving the capitals, of a kind that the Chairmanship has just presented to us, with the aim of achieving results before the end of the year. We should like to emphasize once again the option of holding meetings of experts sent from the capitals outside of Vienna and the pressing need to relaunch the process in order to obtain results before the end of the year.

5. Regarding criteria for revising the scales:

- We emphasize the fact that reform should be general and based on a systemic and regularly revisable methodology, which rules out the last proposal, which was of a highly contextual nature, of Ms. Stefan-Bastl in 2017;
- Participating States' ability to pay should also be highlighted as a criterion that was the subject of unanimous agreement in past successive Permanent Council decisions (in particular, No. 1027 in 2011, No. 1072 in 2013, and reference in Decision No. 1196 of 2015 to the criteria set out in Decision No. 1072).

6. Finally, it is in our Organization's interest to act without delay to identify a qualified individual with sufficiently high standing to reflect this issue's political importance in order to use the limited time that remains to lead negotiations towards productive results by the end of the year.

We request that the Italian Chairmanship please keep us briefed on its plans and we ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.