
Chairmanship: Italy**1172nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 18 January 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to Moldova in connection with the accidental death on 18 January 2018 of Mr. Vitalie Andrei Zara, a monitor with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

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

Agenda item 1: METHODS OF WORK OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
IN 2018

Chairperson, Russian Federation, 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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/42/18), Canada (PC.DEL/54/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/28/18 OSCE+), Austria, Romania (PC.DEL/20/18 OSCE+), Switzerland, France, United States of America, Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Netherlands, Slovenia, Secretary General

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1285 (PC.DEC/1285) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/31/18), 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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/41/18/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/35/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/51/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/21/18), Canada (PC.DEL/53/18 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/39/18), Ukraine
- (c) *Recently adopted law in Latvia on the status of participants in the Second World War:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/22/18), Latvia (PC.DEL/48/18 OSCE+)
- (d) *Violations of freedom of the media in the United States of America:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/23/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/56/18) (PC.DEL/57/18), Ukraine
- (e) *Human rights violations at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility:* Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/37/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/26/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/58/18)
- (f) *The murder of Mr. O. Ivanović:* Serbia (Annex 1), Russian Federation (Annex 2), Switzerland (PC.DEL/33/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/24/18), 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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/44/18), Albania (PC.DEL/32/18), France, Chairperson, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (g) *Human rights violations concerning the Memorial Human Rights Centre 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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Australia, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/45/18), United States

of America (PC.DEL/25/18), Norway, Canada (PC.DEL/52/18 OSCE+), Ukraine, Russian Federation

- (h) *Conviction of journalist Mr. A. Mukhtarli in Azerbaijan*: 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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/47/18), United States of America (also on behalf of Canada) (PC.DEL/27/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/34/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/36/18 OSCE+), Armenia
- (i) *Priorities of Kazakhstan as a non-permanent United Nations Security Council member for the years 2017 and 2018, and a ministerial-level debate on "Building a regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a model to link security and development"*: Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/49/18 OSCE+), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/38/18 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/30/18/Rev.1), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/40/18 OSCE+)

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

- (a) *Appointment of Personal and Special Representatives of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship (CIO.GAL/2/18/Rev.1 OSCE+)*: Chairperson
- (b) *First Preparatory Meeting of the Twenty-Sixth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, to be held on 22 and 23 January 2018*: Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Secretary General's hour with the heads of delegations: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Annual meeting of the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat with the heads of field operations and institutions, held on 11 and 12 January 2018: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the President of Switzerland on 8 January 2018: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria on 21 December 2017: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)*

- (f) *Announcement of the distribution of the OSCE Secretariat Visibility Report for the period November–December 2017*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)
- (g) *Call for nominations for the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/10/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Democracy and rule of law in Spain*: Spain (Annex 3)
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Hungary, to be held on 8 April 2018*: Hungary
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in Luxembourg, to be held on 14 October 2018*: Luxembourg

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 25 January 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1172nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1172, Agenda item 3(f)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to raise this current issue, in light of the heinous crime committed on Tuesday in Kosovska Mitrovica, where Oliver Ivanović, a prominent Serbian politician, was murdered. The Government of the Republic of Serbia offers its condolences to the family of Mr. Ivanović.

Oliver Ivanović was a moderate politician. But more importantly he was a caring husband and loving father of four, a kind human being who, throughout his political career and entire life, has called for peace, co-existence and co-operation between the people in Kosovo and Metohija. Now, unfortunately, he and his family are deprived of the opportunity to clear his name in relation to the fabricated charges for crimes during the conflict in Kosovo.

Serbia condemns in the strongest possible terms the murder of Mr. Ivanović. We call upon the entire international community present in Kosovo to help bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice. We thank all of those who condemned the murder and who extended their condolences, as well as expressing their wish to help in the investigation. Serbia considers this murder in broad daylight to be an act of terrorism and we will treat it as such, in that our Special Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, as well as other competent authorities, will be involved in solving this case.

Mr. Chairperson,

I say with full confidence that the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime are not Serbs. They are not Albanians. They do not have any nationality. They are just criminals, working against the stability of the entire region and against all people in Kosovo and Metohija, and in particular against the safety of Serbs in the northern part of the Province. They must be swiftly brought to justice through a comprehensive, effective and transparent investigation.

Considering the fact that the Republic of Serbia does not have effective control over this part of its territory, we call upon the local authorities to deal with this issue swiftly, professionally and with due diligence. We stand ready to provide full support in this investigation. With this in mind, the Serbian Government has sent letters to the European

Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) requesting the participation of the institutions of the Republic of Serbia in the investigation.

We call upon everyone to remain calm and not to give in to fear and emotions, which are running high at the moment. Maintaining peace and stability in the region continues to be of crucial importance and should be everybody's primary goal.

As we are living in the twenty-first century, everyone in the region should finally understand that it is high time for discussions and negotiations and to build confidence and trust that will ultimately lead to true and honest friendship. Crimes such as this can only produce hatred, revenge and violence which prevent us from having peace and progress.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union is an example of how nations that suffered tremendously in the biggest conflict in the history of mankind can find a way to overcome hatred, work together and achieve great things. If this was possible after the Second World War in the entire continent, it must be possible in the Western Balkans as well. It is up to us.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would respectfully request that this statement be included in the journal of the day. Thank you.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1172
18 January 2018
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1172nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1172, Agenda item 3(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

We consider the murder of prominent Serbian politician Oliver Ivanovič in Kosovska Mitrovica on 16 January 2018 an act of terrorism designed to intimidate the Serbian population in the north of the autonomous territory of Kosovo. We express our profound condolences to Mr. Ivanovič's family and friends.

We share the Serbian Government's assessment of this heinous crime and we think it important to act in accordance with Belgrade's demands and ensure that Serbia's relevant bodies participate fully in the investigation. We stress that this in no way contradicts the provisions of the cornerstone United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

Regrettably, this event confirms our repeated warnings about the Kosovo quasi-State's non-viability, the fragile situation in the territory and the lawlessness that reigns there. All of this has prepared the soil for systematic anti-Serbian acts and ratcheting up the spiral of violence. The result is daily cases of desecrating Orthodox holy sites, attacks and destruction of the non-Albanian population's property.

We stress that this terrorist act testifies to the need for multilateral structures to pay constant close attention to the situation in Kosovo and to maintaining the timetable for reports by the international presence in Priština to the OSCE and the UN Security Council. It is important to take an active and objective approach to the situation in the territory, which is a source of growing concern and which, as has now become clear to all, constitutes a direct threat to the region's peace and security.

We request that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1172
18 January 2018
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

1172nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1172, Agenda item 6(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

I once again address this Permanent Council, at my own request, to inform you about the state of democracy and the rule of law in Spain.

This delegation last addressed the Permanent Council on 2 November 2017. At that time, it announced the approval by the Spanish Senate of the measures requested by the Government, under Article 155 of the Constitution, to restore legal order in the autonomous community of Catalonia.

Among other measures, the Senate resolution dissolved the autonomous Parliament of Catalonia and called for regional elections. These elections were held on 21 December with respect for the law and electoral guarantees, and polling day proceeded in the normal manner. Voter participation broke a record for this kind of election, reaching 81.94 per cent – 230,000 voters more than in 2015, even though fewer people were registered to vote.

As to the outcome, the percentage obtained by the Catalan nationalist parties dropped from 48.70 to 47.52 per cent; for their part, anti-independence parties – including the Citizens Party (Ciudadanos), the party receiving the most votes – rose to 52.48 per cent, although once again the distribution of seats according to the electoral laws in force gave a majority to the nationalists.

Yesterday, the opening session of the new Catalan Parliament was held, in which the Parliamentary Board was formed. This represents the first step towards the investiture of the new head of the regional executive.

Mr. Chairperson,

The results of the latest regional elections show once again that Catalonia is a plural society, and that the social and political divide that has been created can be bridged only if this plurality is respected. To that end, the constitutional framework and the rule of law are essential, as are messages that promote a renewal of social harmony, integration and respect for the rights of all.

The Spanish Constitution will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2018. Spain's acknowledged track record of democracy during these past four decades has placed our country among those enjoying the highest degree of freedom and guarantees for the protection of the rights of all their citizens. The Government of Spain and the great majority of the political parties would like to see the newly constituted Catalan Parliament ensure a return to the path of constitutional legality and institutional loyalty, in order to move on once and for all from the chapter of instability and resultant social and economic damage, and to provide the well-being to which all citizens of Catalonia aspire.

Thank you very much.

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



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

PC.DEC/1285
18 January 2018

Original: ENGLISH

1172nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1172, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1285
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe until
31 December 2018.