

Chairmanship: Sweden

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1327th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 30 July 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 5 p.m.

Closed: 5.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 2: UPDATE BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON THE ONGOING DECISION PROCESSES

Chairperson, Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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 San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1250/21), Norway, Switzerland, Canada, United Kingdom (Annex 1), Albania, Poland, Russian Federation, United States of America (Annex 2), Azerbaijan, Turkey (Annex 3)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 August 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



1327th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1327, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Madam Chairperson,

The United Kingdom supports the efforts over the past months from the Chairperson-in-Office to find consensus on the issues of the 2021 Unified Budget, the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) and the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). All of these are important decisions for us to take as 57 participating States and in this Permanent Council.

We are disappointed agreement has still not been reached on these issues. The Unified Budget is essential to enable the smooth operation of the Organization, including its executive structures, its autonomous institutions, and its field missions. The ASRC is the key politico-military event in the OSCE calendar and one which OSCE ministers have committed to holding annually. And HDIM is the key annual event in the OSCE's year where we engage with civil society on human rights and democracy across the OSCE area. It is Europe's largest annual human rights conference, and we attach great importance to our commitment to hold this annually.

On the Unified Budget – we are now nearly into the eighth month of the year. Considerable efforts and compromise has been made to get to this stage where all agree on the formulation of the Budget, as set out in Annex I of draft decision PC.DD/18/21. We once again urge all countries to agree the 2021 Unified Budget without further delay.

On the ASRC – we are supportive of the Chairmanship's effort to find a solution, and we urge all countries to join consensus.

On HDIM – considerable compromise has already been made on the agenda, dropping topics from previous versions that we would have liked to see (such as democratic elections as a special topic); we have already made significant compromises to be willing to accept the current draft decision PC.DD/5/21/Rev.3, such as a narrowed scope of the freedom of expression and hate crime topics, and accepting new language on access to information and cultural rights. On logistics, HDIM needs to be organized in a way which safeguards the unique characteristics of the event, but takes into account the epidemiological situation in the host country. I would note that we have all had to work in a blended format over the past 18 months and the OSCE has been highly effective – thanks to the work of the OSCE

executive structures (including the autonomous institutions) and the 2020 and 2021 Chairmanships – in developing and implementing these new ways of working.

We support your approach to continue negotiations, and to work next week through the traditional recess period in order to achieve that. This is an extraordinary situation and we are fully behind your efforts to reach a compromise on these outstanding issues as a matter of utmost urgency. We urge all participating States to do the same.

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



1327th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1327, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The United States appreciates the hard work of the Swedish Chairperson-in-Office to find consensus on technical decisions related to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), and the 2021 Unified Budget. That we are still here discussing these issues late on Friday, 30 July is the result of obstructionism impeding the Organization's efficient functioning and effectiveness. Frankly, Madam Chairperson, this is outrageous.

We recognize the concerns of certain participating States regarding these decisions. However, participating States had sufficient time to work through their issues and ultimately reach consensus. The Swedish Chairmanship has gone above and beyond trying to find a way to get all participating States to reach a reasonable compromise. But without the spirit of collaboration and a genuine commitment to our comprehensive security goals, we cannot fulfil the mandates set by our respective ministers when they decided the OSCE would hold certain events each year. That the review meetings be held was the ministers' clear intent. Speaking for our own equities, I know the United States wanted many things included in the decisions for the Unified Budget, the ASRC, and HDIM that were not included in the decisions before us today. But, for the good of this Organization, we will accept the current decisions rather than fighting tooth-and-nail for ones that perfectly reflect our priorities. The fact that some participating States are still obstructing this process hours before the planned summer recess can only be seen as their disregard for the intent of the ministers and for the entire OSCE process.

Without a Unified Budget, we cannot provide for the smooth operation of this Organization, including the Secretariat, autonomous institutions, and the field missions. Without the ASRC, the world's largest regional security organization cannot conduct the critical review of our efforts to implement our security commitments at the meetings which our ministers agreed to hold annually. In the last 12 months there have been significant events in the region, including open hostilities and ongoing military threats and intimidation. The ASRC is the place to discuss these threats to regional security. Without HDIM, the world's largest annual human rights review conference, the participating States unwilling to join consensus at this eleventh hour send a clear signal that their international obligations to respect and protect human rights are not important to their governments or to the OSCE. If a

State insists on having all its demands met before reaching consensus, that is not compromise; that is hostage-taking. Now is the time to stand with the rest of us and move forward to a compromise that is reasonable and that shows your commitment to the OSCE.

Madam Chairperson, like many other participating States, I reiterate the United States made significant compromises in the language in today's draft decisions. We are deeply frustrated and disappointed these compromises were unreciprocated by certain other participating States, who continue to advocate an all-or-nothing approach. The United States would be prepared to agree here on dates for these upcoming events and continue to discuss agendas. What we do not support is a situation where the Organization fails to fulfil core mandates of its ministers. That means the ASRC and HDIM need to be held. Let us set the dates today and continue to sort out remaining concerns. I am sure that in the spirit of co-operative security, this can be done. We cannot allow ourselves to reach a point where the OSCE's inability to conduct its daily business is overshadowing our shared commitments for the better future we envisioned when we signed the Helsinki Final Act.

These decisions today come down to whether or not we uphold the OSCE principles and commitments that underpin the security and safety of our populations.

Madam Chairperson, the United States is deeply appreciative of your leadership on finding a way to compromise, especially when certain States embrace brinkmanship over collaboration. We support your continued negotiations and endorse working through recess if required to achieve consensus on agendas and procedural details, but we need to set dates for these events. There will never be a perfect decision, but it is totally unacceptable for inaction by the Permanent Council to *de facto* overrule the Ministerial Council.

Colleagues, it is time for all of us to show our commitment to the OSCE and get this done.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I request that my statement be attached to the journal.



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

PC.JOUR/1327
30 July 2021
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1327th Plenary Meeting
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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

With reference to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) we would like to state the following.

Turkey is ready to join consensus on the most recent draft decisions on the dates, topics and agenda of the 2021 HDIM.

However, we note that consensus was not reached.

Permanent Council Decision No. 476 of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues specifies the Permanent Council decisions required to organize the HDIM.

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