
Chairmanship: Slovakia**1252nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 12 December 2019

Opened: 10.15 a.m.
Suspended: 12.30 p.m.
Resumed: 3.20 p.m.
Closed: 5.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč
Mr. S. Kantor
Ambassador K. Žáková

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to Ukraine in connection with the tragic fire in Odessa on 4 December 2019. He also expressed sympathy to the Czech Republic in connection with the attack in a hospital in Ostrava on 10 December 2019. He furthermore extended condolences to the families of the victims of the gas explosion in an apartment block in Presov, Slovakia, on 7 December 2019.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE, MS. MARIJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ

Chairperson, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Norway (PC.DEL/1407/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1418/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1400/19), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1403/19 OSCE+), Finland-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1421/19), Albania (PC.DEL/1423/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1430/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1411/19), Hungary (PC.DEL/1401/19 OSCE+),

Kazakhstan, Croatia, Armenia (PC.DEL/1416/19 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1428/19 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES FOR THE 28th ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1358 (PC.DEC/1358) on the theme, agenda and modalities for the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (also on behalf of Canada) (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 3: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 4

Agenda item 4: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SEC.FR/33/19 OSCE+), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1424/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1409/19), Kazakhstan, Norway (PC.DEL/1408/19/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1419/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1413/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/1417/19 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/1422/19 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1410/19 OSCE+), France (also on behalf of Germany) (PC.DEL/1406/19), Holy See (PC.DEL/1412/19 OSCE+), Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1429/19 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1426/19 OSCE+), Italy, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1405/19)

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Human Rights Day, celebrated on 10 December 2019: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1402/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1414/19) (PC.DEL/1415/19), Finland-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; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1425/19),

Canada, Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Norway) (PC.DEL/1420/19 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1426/19 OSCE+), Latvia

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

Closing event of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, to be held on 18 December 2019:
Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+):* Secretary General
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (c) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Uzbek Senate, held on 2 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (d) *Meeting of the Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team, held in Vienna on 11 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (e) *OSCE round table on sexual harassment in the workplace, held in Vienna on 10 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (f) *Conference on global action against climate change held in Vienna on 9 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (g) *Expert workshop on digital tools to prevent and detect corruption, held in Skopje on 2 and 3 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (h) *Participation of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the conference on “Enhancing Anti-Trafficking Response in the Black Sea Region” held in Athens on 2 December 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (i) *Participation of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the NATO conference on “Combating human trafficking in the Western Balkans” held in Podgorica on 28 November 2019:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)
- (j) *Extension of the deadline for the nomination of candidates for the position of Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/203/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Early parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, to be held on 9 February 2020: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1404/19 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Request by Moldova to make an interpretative statement on the Russian translation of MC.DOC/1/18/Corr.1: Moldova (Annex)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 19 December 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1252nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1252, Agenda item 8(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

**Interpretative statement on the Russian translation of the
Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdnestrian
Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format adopted at the Twenty-Fifth
Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan in 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

Following the decision to publish, on 29 November 2019, the Russian translation of the second journal of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council held in Milan in 2018 (MC(25).JOUR/2/Corr.1), and in order to offer the necessary clarification on the disagreements that arose over the translation from English into Russian of the word “parameters” in paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdnestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format (MC.DOC/1/18/Corr.1), the Republic of Moldova would like to make an interpretative statement in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

According to the opinion of one delegation, the English word “parameters” should be translated into Russian as “критерии/criteria”. However, in all other OSCE working languages the direct translation of the English word “parameters” has been used, thus retaining its Greek etymology. More important in our case is that the word “criteria” is used by one delegation in an inappropriate manner in connection with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders.

In this context, we are compelled to point out an obvious and extremely important fact enshrined in the most relevant international documents, such as the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, namely, that sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers are generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

We would like to underline that during discussions on this matter the Moldovan delegation exercised flexibility so that the consensus necessary for the publication of the Russian version of this document could be reached.

We would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.

1252nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1252, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1358
THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES FOR THE
28th ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to Chapter VII, paragraphs 21 to 32, of the Helsinki Document 1992; Chapter IX, paragraph 20, of the Budapest Document 1994; Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004; Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006; Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006; Permanent Council Decision No. 958 of 11 November 2010; and Permanent Council Decision No. 1011 of 7 December 2011,

Relying on the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Annex 1 of MC(11).JOUR/2) and relevant Ministerial Council decisions,

Building on the outcomes of past Economic and Environmental Forums, as well as on the results of relevant OSCE activities,

Decides that:

1. The theme of the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum will be: “Promoting security, stability and economic growth in the OSCE area by preventing and combating corruption through innovation, increased transparency and digitalization”;
2. The 28th Economic and Environmental Forum will consist of three meetings, including two preparatory meetings, one of which will take place outside of Vienna. The concluding meeting will be held on 10 and 11 September 2020 in Prague. These arrangements shall not set a precedent for future meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, under the guidance of the OSCE Chairmanship for 2020, will organize the above-mentioned meetings;
3. The agenda of the Forum will focus on the impact of the following topics on the comprehensive security of the OSCE area:
 - The role of good governance and preventing and combating corruption in promoting security, stability and economic growth;

- Challenges posed by corruption in the area of environmental protection and best practices of anti-corruption in this specific field;
 - New challenges to anti-corruption in the digital age and opportunities offered by information technology developments in combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism;
 - The role of increased public and private sector engagement and economic co-operation in combating corruption;
4. The agendas of the Forum meetings, including timetables and themes of the working sessions, will be proposed and determined by the OSCE Chairmanship for 2020, after being agreed upon by the participating States in the Economic and Environmental Committee;
 5. The Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of the OSCE's commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, including through presentations of activities implemented by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the field operations;
 6. The discussions at the Forum should benefit from cross-dimensional input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, under the guidance of the OSCE Chairmanship for 2020, and from deliberations in various international organizations;
 7. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation in their delegations of representatives from the business and scientific communities and of other relevant actors of civil society would be welcome;
 8. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions;
 9. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum: Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia; Council of Europe; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Economic Cooperation Organization; Energy Community; Energy Charter Treaty; Eurasian Economic Commission; Eurasian Economic Union; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Green Cross International; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Energy Agency; International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea; International Maritime Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; International Committee of the Red Cross; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM; Organisation of Islamic Cooperation; Regional Cooperation Council; Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Southeast European Cooperative Initiative; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; UN Women; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; World Bank Group; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; World Trade Organization; Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies; Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; United Nations Children’s Fund; Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI); United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination; International Civil Defence Organization; World Food Programme; Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery; Inter-Parliamentary Union; Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC); Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC); Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; and other relevant organizations;

10. The OSCE Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum;

11. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum;

12. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum;

13. The 2020 preparatory meetings will be held in English and Russian with interpretation. These arrangements will not constitute a precedent to be relied upon in other circumstances.

PC.DEC/1358
12 December 2019
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**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 United States of America (also on behalf of Canada):

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The United States wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Canada aligns with this statement.

The United States and Canada welcome the adoption of this decision and the 2020 Albanian Chairmanship’s efforts to fight corruption as a threat to the region’s comprehensive security.

In joining consensus on the Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) theme, agenda, and modalities, we wish to review and reiterate the commitments that participating States have made regarding inviting relevant organizations to the EEF. Relevance for the purpose of being invited to participate in the EEF has two essential elements: that the international organizations have expertise or programmes relevant to the EEF theme of the year, as well as that the OSCE invites only those international organizations which qualify under the commitments participating States made under the 1999 Istanbul Document’s Charter for European Security, paragraph I.32, and the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, paragraphs I.1–2.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”