

**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council**  PC.JOUR/1525 19 June 2025

#### **Chairmanship: Finland**

### **1525th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. <u>Date</u>: Thursday, 19 June 2025 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m. Closed: 12.15 p.m.

2. <u>Chairperson</u>: Ms. M. Neuvonen Mr. S. Gahnström

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

- 3. <u>Subjects discussed Statements Decisions/documents adopted:</u>
  - Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/623/25), Canada (PC.DEL/610/25), Poland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/618/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Türkiye (PC.DEL/619/25 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/627/25 OSCE+), Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE 2025 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LANGUAGE SERVICES PROGRAMME

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1507 (PC.DEC/1507) on the 2025 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Poland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), Türkiye, Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision), Chairperson

# Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1508 (PC.DEC/1508) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Moldova (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Poland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Türkiye (PC.DEL/620/25 OSCE+), Switzerland (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 7 to the decision), Chairperson

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) Increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in yet more confrontation in and around Ukraine: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/628/25/Corr.1)
- (b) Observance of Pride Month, 1–30 June 2025: Chairperson, Norway (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), Poland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/625/25), Belarus (PC.DEL/617/25 OSCE+)

- (c) Joint statement on the occasion of the 84th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War: Belarus (also on behalf of the Russian Federation) (Annex 2)
- (d) International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, observed on 19 June 2025: Chairperson, Poland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/626/25), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/614/25), Türkiye (PC.DEL/622/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom

## Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) Telephone conversation between the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office,
  H.E. Ms. E. Valtonen, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia,
  H.E. Mr. A. Mirzoyan, held on 16 June 2025: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/67/25 OSCE+)
- (b) Report on the Chairmanship conference on "Climate and Security: Unleashing the Potential of the Comprehensive Approach", held in Espoo, Finland, on 11 June 2025: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/67/25 OSCE+)
- (c) Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office (CIO.GAL/67/25 OSCE+): Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/64/25 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (b) Expression of gratitude on the adoption of Decision No. 1507 (PC.DEC/1507) on the 2025 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme: Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, to be held in Rome on 10 and 11 July 2025: Italy (also on behalf of Ukraine) (PC.DEL/615/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom
- (b) *Early parliamentary elections in the Netherlands, to be held on 29 October 2025*: Netherlands (PC.DEL/624/25 OSCE+)
- 4. <u>Next meeting</u>:

Thursday, 3 July 2025, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council**  PC.JOUR/1525 19 June 2025 Annex 1

ENGLISH Original: RUSSIAN

**1525th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1525, Point 2

#### STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

It remains deeply disappointing that the Finnish Chairmanship is openly violating the rules of our Organization and wilfully continuing the fruitless discussions of the Ukraine topic at an OSCE decision making body. The inclusion of a separate confrontational item on "Russian aggression against Ukraine" in the Permanent Council's agenda is quite unacceptable.

Such actions are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)) and must stop. The agenda circulated by the Chairmanship for today's meeting has an overtly aggressive thrust as regards the Ukraine issue, is incompatible with the principles of the OSCE and does not give all participating States the opportunity to take part on an equal and non-discriminatory basis in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE by involving consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

This is clearly an abuse of authority by the Chairmanship, which is duty-bound to act for all 57 participating States and not for a group of countries that are aggressively imposing their views on everyone else.

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council**  PC.JOUR/1525 19 June 2025 Annex 2

ENGLISH Original: RUSSIAN

**1525th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1525, Agenda item 4(c)

### STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS (ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

On 22 June 1941, Hitler's troops treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, marking the start of the Great Patriotic War.

Precipitated by the adherents of Nazi ideology, who were convinced of their racial superiority and exclusiveness, this tragedy without equal in world history was an existential challenge for the peoples of the USSR. The expulsion and extermination of the civilian population by the Nazis and their accomplices – as set out, inter alia, in the judgment delivered by the Nuremberg Tribunal – must be regarded as an act of genocide against the peoples of the Soviet Union.

We will not stand for the immoral and unscientific attempts to assign equal responsibility for the outbreak of war to the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, to draw a veil of silence over that historical period, and to revise, or make twisted moral and legal judgements about, the outcome of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War.

We will not allow the feat accomplished by the Red Army to be forgotten, namely, how it was able to stop the invaders and made a decisive contribution to the defeat of the Nazi Third Reich and to the liberation of the countries of Europe from the horrors of fascism and National Socialism.

We mourn the 27 million Soviet citizens who perished in the course of the Great Patriotic War. We honour the memory of the millions of people of different nationalities and faiths who laid down their lives for freedom and justice.

The unprecedented bravery and selflessness of front-line fighters, partisans, members of the anti-fascist resistance and workers on the home front will always be in our hearts. Thanks to their unbelievable strength of will and self-sacrifice, it proved possible to safeguard the future of all humanity and uphold a fundamental right – the right to life.

We strongly condemn any forms of glorification of the Nazi movement and of whitewashing of former Waffen-SS members and their accomplices, and likewise the toleration of manifestations of neo-Nazism. That is tantamount to public mockery of the memory of the millions who fell on the battlefields or were brutally tortured by the Nazis in prisons and concentration camps. The ghastly crimes of Hitler's Germany have no statute of limitations.

We raise our voices against the "war" unleashed by a number of OSCE participating States against memorials to the soldier-liberators and the fraternal graves where they are buried. A stop must be put to the manipulation of historical memory and to flirtation with supporters of Nazi ideology for self-serving interests and political ends.

We emphasize the significance of the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 17 December 2024 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We call for a rallying of international efforts to preserve historical memory and counter racism, xenophobia and neo-Nazism. The feat accomplished by those who gave all peoples and countries the opportunity to enjoy freedom and prosperity must not be allowed to fade into oblivion.

We request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council**  PC.DEC/1507 19 June 2025

Original: ENGLISH

**1525th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1525, Agenda item 2

### DECISION No. 1507 2025 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LANGUAGE SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Acknowledging that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and noting the need to continue some of these discussions,

Reiterating the importance of Permanent Council Decisions No. 486 of 28 June 2002 and No. 553 of 27 June 2003,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2025 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.04 – Provisional Expenditure Authorization,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.01(b) – with reference to the authority of the Permanent Council to take decisions on all elements of the budget,

1. Takes note of the OSCE 2025 Year-End Financial Forecast (document PC.ACMF/24/25 of 23 May 2025);

2. Takes note of the Chairmanship's suggestion on resolving the forecasted deficit (PC.ACMF/33/25 of 13 June 2025);

3. Takes note of the planned transfers of 39,000 euros to the Conference and Language Services programme as set forth in the annex in line with the second measure proposed by the Chairmanship in document PC.ACMF/33/25, while noting that the planned transfers will increase and advance the expected year-end defict under other programmes;

Approves the additional provisional expenditure authorization for the activities of the 4. Conference and Language Services programme of 405,000 euros, on an exceptional basis, in order to meet the anticipated financing requirements until the end of September 2025 as set forth in the annex, in line with the fifth measure proposed by the Chairmanship in document PC.ACMF/33/25;

Determines that this additional provisional expenditure authorization shall be financed 5. from the provisional 2024 cash surplus<sup>1</sup> originating principally from the interest received from banks.

1

As per the 2024 Financial Statements that are currently under audit by the External Auditor.

### **2025 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION**

<u>Fund</u> Main Programme Programme	Provisional Expenditure Authorization Financial Regulation 3.04*	Transfers Financial Regulation 3.02**	Total Forecast Expenditure 2025	Estimated Year-End Balance	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization
	Α	В	С	D=A+B-C	E	F=A+B+E
The Secretariat Secretary General and Central Services Conference and Language Services	5,437,500	39,000	7,096,500	(1,620,000)	405,000	5,881,500

#### TOTAL ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

405,000

\* Reflects provisional expenditure authorization until the end of 2025.

\*\* Reflects transfers planned to be made in June 2025 from other programmes under the Secretary General and Central Services (14,000 euros from the Office of Legal Affairs programme, 10,000 euros from the Communication and Media Relations Section programme, 10,000 euros from the External Co-operation programme and 5,000 euros from the Gender Issues programme).

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 Kingdom:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the provisional expenditure authorization, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

As stated on numerous occasions, the United Kingdom would like to underline the importance of all parts of the OSCE being adequately financed to fulfil their mandates. Addressing the forecast deficits in the 2025 budget is an urgent issue for the Organization, and it was critical a decision to authorize additional funds for the Conference and Language Services programme was approved today.

We welcome that participating States have allowed this draft decision to pass, and hope that the constructive spirit shown in agreeing to this expenditure authorization can be carried forward to future discussions on the 2025 and 2026 Unified Budget.

The United Kingdom once again warmly thanks the Chairperson-in-Office and Secretariat teams for their continued efforts to resolve the financial issues facing the Organization.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson."

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:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on funding Conference and Language Services, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The absence of an adopted Unified Budget has hampered the OSCE's ability to plan meetings, conferences, and language services within its provided budget.

The absence of an adopted Unified Budget has also required the use of Permanent Council time and decision authority on essentially administrative reallocation of funds, which is not the best use of our Permanent Representatives' time.

We understand other participating States share these concerns. We urge participating States to adopt a Unified Budget as soon as possible to put the Organization on a stable financial footing to execute its core functions in line with its mandate.

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

ENGLISH Original: FRENCH

### 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 Poland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden):

"The Member States of the European Union welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council decision granting an authorization of additional expenditure for Conference and Language Services (CLS).

The purpose of CLS is to enable the work of the entire OSCE, and we must maintain its services if the Organization is to function properly. To that end, the participating States must ensure adequate funding for this programme, including for the provision of interpretation services.

The amounts mentioned in this decision will make it possible to address a deficit in the CLS budget to cover legally binding commitments, mainly staff costs and office expenses. This deficit is due to the absence of an adequate Unified Budget.

The Member States of the European Union, together accounting for almost 60 per cent of the OSCE budget, note with concern the deterioration in the Organization's financial situation, which is now affecting its ability to honour its legally binding commitments. Despite the cost-cutting measures taken by the various structures to achieve savings, the level of forecasted year-end budget deficits reported by the Secretariat remains very worrying. The adoption of the OSCE Unified Budget without delay is the shared responsibility of all participating States and we must accord this absolute priority because it is important to provide all programme managers in the Organization with operational stability until the end of the year.

The EU Member States thank the Finnish Chairmanship for its determined efforts to solve the problems posed by the lack of adequate financing for our Organization, in particular the absence of a Unified Budget for 2025, and by the failure to adopt the Financial Statements for 2022 and 2023. We look forward to receiving the Chairmanship's first proposal for the 2025 Unified Budget shortly and stand ready to study it in a constructive spirit as soon as it is circulated."

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 Azerbaijan:

"In connection with the decision on the 2025 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme adopted by the Permanent Council, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to make the following interpretative statement.

The delegation of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on this decision on the basis of the understanding that the decision by the Permanent Council is adopted on an exceptional basis and does not set a precedent.

Furthermore, this decision acknowledges that the discussions on the 2025 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions.

This decision also reiterates the determination reflected in the decision by the Permanent Council on the adoption of the 2021 Unified Budget, as well as in other financial decisions, and acknowledges explicitly that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities, which includes the former so-called Minsk Process, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and the High-Level Planning Group.

The Chairmanship and the Secretariat should use this political guidance in the preparation of the 2025 budget proposal.

It is high time to conclude all discussions on the dysfunctional, obsolete and irrelevant structures of the former Minsk Process and to move to actions. For this purpose, the OSCE structures referred to above must be closed and removed from the budget. The scarce resources of the Organization must be allocated to the relevant structures of the OSCE, where they are needed the most to fund the programmatic activities that are relevant and around which there is consensus. This will ensure that the Organization remains relevant and agile and continues to deliver.

In this regard, we reiterate our call to the Chairmanship and the Secretariat to expeditiously prepare a plan that defines the main parameters and determines the tasks and administrative arrangements to close the structures related to the former Minsk Process. This will ensure the collective support of all participating States for the timely adoption of the

Unified Budget, will restore the functionality of the Organization and will put the financing of the Organization on a sustainable path.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the Permanent Council decision and to the journal of the day."

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 Canada:

"Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the decision just adopted on the additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Support for this decision is in the best interest of the Organization. However, as a more sustainable solution, participating States should agree to a Unified Budget as a matter of urgency and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

We emphasize that the piecemeal approach of allocating resources is neither sustainable nor desirable. In this context, we look forward to forthcoming discussions on the Unified Budget and other financial and administrative issues and strongly encourage all participating States to engage constructively in these discussions.

We want to acknowledge the difficult situation that the lack of a Unified Budget creates for the well-being of OSCE staff, who are vital to all functions of the Organization. We thank them for their dedication and professionalism.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day. Thank you."

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 Armenia:

"In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the 2025 additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme, the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia joins the consensus noting the efforts by the Chairmanship to address the urgent need of additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Conference and Language Services programme to ensure the smooth conduct of activities by Conference and Language Services. Armenia supports this decision on an exceptional basis.

The reference in this decision to the lack of agreement on all programmatic activities is redundant and not relevant for the purpose of this decision. However, it does not refer to only a single programmatic activity. In the absence of a decision on the Unified Budget there is a need for agreement on all programmatic activities.

We are deeply concerned that the primary cause of the current situation is the non-approval of the OSCE's Unified Budget. Armenia reiterates its readiness to support early adoption of the Unified Budget based on OSCE commitments and decisions adopted by all participating States, including those related to the Minsk Process, the High-Level Planning Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

Armenia requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and to the journal of the day."



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1508 19 June 2025

Original: ENGLISH

**1525th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1525, Agenda item 3

### DECISION No. 1508 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until 31 December 2025.

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 Moldova:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Republic of Moldova would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The Republic of Moldova values the work carried out by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, which is a key partner for the Republic of Moldova in the Transnistrian settlement process, as well as in providing the necessary assistance and expertise to the Moldovan authorities on matters related to human rights, the rule of law and civil society. Although the formal settlement process is on hold, the Mission continues to play a primary role in facilitating dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol and monitoring the situation in the Security Zone.

Moldova, as the host country, strongly supports the mandate of the Mission and does not see any reason to hinder its functioning by reducing the duration of its legitimate mandate.

In this regard, we deeply regret that it was again not possible to extend the Mission's mandate for one year due to the disagreement of one participating State.

OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 states that the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs. And it should not be for any other OSCE participating State to impose an alternative period.

We would like to underline yet again the burden that six-month mandates place on the Mission and its ability to conduct its work efficiently. At the same time, Moldova underscores the importance of further fortifying the operational capacity of the Mission. It is imperative that the team can keep up its work without additional budgetary or administrative difficulties.

We call on the Russian Federation to reconsider its position with regards to the renewal of the Mission's mandate in the future, to bring the Mission's mandate in line with the yearly OSCE cycle, in accordance with the relevant Ministerial Council decision.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of the day."

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

The delegation of Poland, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The EU deeply deplores once again the isolated and unsubstantiated position of the Russian Federation to arbitrarily limit the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to six months instead of one year, which is the rule we collectively subscribed to and reconfirmed in 2006 at the ministerial level. Indeed, the Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 reaffirmed unequivocally that the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs. We continue to believe that a six-month extension represents a very heavy administrative burden for the Mission and we do not see any reason to render the functioning of the Mission even more challenging in the current very difficult circumstances, when the Republic of Moldova continues to face the consequences of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

We commend the Head of Mission and her dedicated team for the outstanding work they carry out to implement the mandate of the Mission, which has continued in spite of the present challenging circumstances. We recall our strong support for the Mission's work in facilitating engagement and regular dialogue between the sides in the context of achieving a lasting comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria.

It is essential that the Mission continues to monitor the situation in the Security Zone and on the border with Ukraine, reporting promptly on any incidents occurring there. We reiterate our appeal for strict adherence to the rules established by the Joint Control Commission in the Security Zone and emphasize the importance of respecting the Mission's mandate and ensuring the free movement of its members.

Having in mind the importance of allowing the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue its invaluable work, and taking into account the position of the host country, the EU has decided to join the consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

We call on Russia to reconsider its position in order to allow for a resumption of a one-year extension of the Mission's mandate, as per the established rule it agreed upon at ministerial level during the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in 2006.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today's meeting.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement."

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 Canada:

"Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada regrets that one participating State has blocked consensus on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term. We have joined consensus on this irregular six-month extension but are disappointed the Russian Federation has once again groundlessly and recklessly prioritized its narrow national interest to undermine the efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization, and broader European security.

Canada continues to strongly support the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We sincerely hope the Russian Federation does not plan to continue this disruptive path with regards to the renewal of the Mission's mandate and that the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova will be renewed for the regular one-year term in December 2025. This would not only be in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 but also with the wishes of the host country.

Canada greatly values the role the OSCE field mission plays to support Moldova in addressing the challenges and security risks it faces.

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

Thank you."

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 Switzerland:

"Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Switzerland would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Switzerland regrets that one participating State does not allow the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term.

We would like to recall our strong support for the Mission's work and express our gratitude for its valuable efforts on the ground. It is imperative that the team can keep up its work without additional budgetary or administrative difficulties.

Taking into account the position of the host country, Switzerland decided to join consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

However, we call on Russia to reconsider its decision and to abide by OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, which clearly states that the mandate of field operations should be of a one-year duration when the host country of the field operation agrees.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson."

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 Kingdom:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

We are deeply disappointed that the Russian Federation today continues not to allow the full 12-month extension that Moldova has called for and that the Mission, its staff and the people of Moldova deserve. This disruptive tactic is part of a pattern of behaviour in which Russia continues to make it difficult for the OSCE to carry out the work it is mandated to do. We call again on the Russian Federation to cease playing games with the Mission's mandate, reconsider its position and return to full 12-month mandate renewals.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of the day."

ENGLISH Original: RUSSIAN

### 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 Russian Federation:

"Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until 31 December 2025, the Russian Federation assumes that this field operation will make exhaustive efforts to facilitate the Transdniestrian settlement process within the existing formats, and that it will intensify its work with the Moldovan authorities with a view to remedying their massive violations of OSCE commitments.

We are obliged to note the limited benefit of the activities of the field operation in Chişinău with regard to facilitating the resumption of the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the "5+2" format. The attempts to focus, instead, on supporting engagement on the basis of the "1+1" formula have not led to any substantive results either. In any case, direct dialogue between the two banks of the Dniester in the "1+1" format cannot be considered as an alternative to the Permanent Conference's work, which was wound up by Moldova in 2019 under spurious pretexts.

The "5+2" mechanism had proved to be very much in demand and effective over many years of productive work. The documents adopted under its framework continue to be a durable legal basis for engagement between the authorities in Tiraspol and Chişinău. Our position is that only this negotiating mechanism has the requisite potential and legitimacy to work out a viable formula for a political settlement, and we consider allusions to its somehow having forfeited its relevance in view of the "geopolitical situation" to be utterly unconvincing.

In addition, we recall that the Mission's mandate includes monitoring of the situation regarding respect for human rights and the rights of national minorities in the host country. We are obliged once again to note lack of a proper response on the part of the field operation to the lawlessness being perpetrated by the current Moldovan authorities. The Mission is ignoring the pressure exerted by these on the Orthodox Church and on politicians and media outlets not to their liking, and also their persecution of the opposition and even ordinary citizens who express their disagreement with the policies of Maia Sandu, including by casting protest votes in elections. The Moldovan authorities' consistent moves towards curtailing the

autonomy of Gagauzia have thus been overlooked, as has their unprecedented pressure on the leadership of that region.

All this attests to the need for significant improvements to the field operation's work. The Russian Federation agrees to a further extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the next six months solely in order to give the Mission leadership one more chance to bring the Mission's activities in line with its mandate. Whether the continued existence of this structure is appropriate will depend on progress being made in addressing the aforementioned problems.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council."

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:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United States makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States joins consensus on the Mission to Moldova's mandate extension until 31 December 2025, although our strong preference was for a one-calendar year extension. We are disappointed that one delegation yet again was unable to join consensus on extending the mandate of the Mission for a full year in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, which states that 'when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration.' The United States rejects any notion that this six-month extension will set a precedent for future mandates.

We support Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and a comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict with a special status for Transnistria. Our support for Moldova on its chosen path towards rule of law reform and further European integration is unwavering.

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