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**Chairmanship: Sweden****1323rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.25 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 5.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered  
Ambassador T. Lorentzson

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

Agenda item 1: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR HEIDI GRAU

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: 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 (PC.FR/28/21 OSCE+), Slovenia-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, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1107/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1079/21), Canada, Turkey (PC.DEL/1099/21 OSCE+), Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1073/21), Norway (PC.DEL/1082/21), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1106/21 OSCE+), Albania (also on behalf of Slovakia) (PC.DEL/1074/21 OSCE+), Georgia, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1080/21)

Agenda item 3:           DECISION ON THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2021  
OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1407 (PC.DEC/1407) on the date and venue of the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4:           DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND  
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2021 OSCE  
MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1408 (PC.DEC/1408) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters:* Armenia (Annex 1)
- (b) *Violations of human rights in Canada:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1076/21), Canada, Chairperson
- (c) *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, observed on 26 June 2021:* Switzerland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1088/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1069/21) (PC.DEL/1070/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1077/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/1112/21 OSCE+), Belarus, Armenia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1093/21 OSCE+)
- (d) *Continued crackdown on civil society in the Russian Federation:* Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/1110/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/1075/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1089/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1081/21/Rev.1 OSCE+)
- (e) *Halting of federal executions in the United States of America:* Slovenia-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1109/21)

- (f) *Fifty-third round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 29 and 30 June 2021*: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1108/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/1078/21), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada), Georgia, Ukraine, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1092/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1098/21 OSCE+)

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

- (a) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Vienna on 28 and 29 June 2021*: Chairperson
- (b) *Joint press conference of the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General, held in Vienna on 29 June 2021*: Chairperson, Armenia (Annex 2)
- (c) *2021 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)*: Chairperson
- (d) *Ambassadorial retreat, to be held at Schlosspark Mauerbach, Lower Austria, on 13 July 2021*: Chairperson
- (e) *Briefing on the priorities of the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship for June and July 2021*: Chairperson

Agenda item 7:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Presentation to the Permanent Council of a thematic report on the OSCE's anti-corruption activities (SEC.GAL/94/21 OSCE+)*: Secretary General, United Kingdom, Slovenia-European Union, United States of America (PC.DEL/1083/21), Russian Federation, Turkey (PC.DEL/1097/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Germany
- (b) *COVID-19 vaccination programme for OSCE staff in South East Europe and Central Asia*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+), Albania, Italy
- (c) *Visit of the Secretary General to the Russian Federation from 21 to 24 June 2021*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation by the Secretary General on 30 June and 1 July 2021 in the Generation Equality Forum held in Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2021*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+)

- (e) *Address by the Secretary General via video teleconference on 1 July 2021 to the Prespa Forum Dialogue (“Western Balkans: The Missing Puzzle for Completing Europe”) on “Building Confidence through Dialogue”, held in Ohrid and Oteshevo/Prespa, North Macedonia, on 1 and 2 July 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+)*
- (f) *Keynote speech by the Secretary General to the meeting of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 2 July 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+)*
- (g) *High-level conference on “Promoting Economic and Environmental Co-operation, Security, and Growth in the OSCE Region: Marking 30 years of the 1990 Bonn Document”, held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 5 July 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/95/21 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Release of the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State: United States of America (PC.DEL/1084/21), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1087/21)*
- (b) *Attack on crime journalist Mr. P. R. de Vries in Amsterdam on 6 July 2021: Netherlands (PC.DEL/1085/21 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Developments in Tbilisi on 5 and 6 July 2021: Georgia, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1091/21 OSCE+), Slovenia-European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1086/21), Norway (PC.DEL/1090/21)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 15 July 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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**1323rd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1323, Agenda item 5(a)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

As we have already noted at previous meetings of the Permanent Council, the trilateral ceasefire statement signed by the leaders of the Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan on 9 November 2020 put an end to the fighting and the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh with the direct and active involvement of Turkey and Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters.

However, after almost eight months of ceasefire, the situation in and around Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) remains volatile.

Foremost amongst the many conflict-resolution issues that still remain unresolved are the comprehensive political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the final determination of the legal status of Artsakh on the basis of the right to self-determination of its people; the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees to Hadrut, Shushi and other areas of Artsakh currently under the occupation of Azerbaijan; and the protection of Armenian cultural and religious heritage.

It is the grim reality around us that Azerbaijan is undertaking new provocative actions on a daily basis, such as, to name but a few, the incursion and continued illegal presence of Azerbaijani armed forces on the sovereign territory of Armenia since 12 May this year; the killing and abduction of Armenian servicemen on our territory; intimidation of and attacks on residents of the border villages, including on 13-year-old minor; mock trials of Armenian prisoners of war in Baku and their sentencing to various prison terms, some extremely lengthy, combined with a refusal to provide any information on the whereabouts of many more Armenian detainees; and the continuous destruction of Armenian cultural and religious heritage.

Madam Chairperson,

The Armenian delegation has consistently raised the issue of Armenian prisoners of war and other captives, including civilians. In this context we would like to recall that the European Court of Human Rights has adopted 201 interim measures with regard to combatants and civilians of Armenian origin detained by Azerbaijan. It is indicative that

Azerbaijan has refused to admit the detention of most of them, acknowledging the presence of only 72 Armenians in its custody.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan failed to adequately and meaningfully co-operate with the European Court, thus prompting the Court to notify the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 16 March 2021 of the interim measures it adopted in relation to Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives and of the Azerbaijani Government's failure to submit relevant information on the Armenian captives within the set time limits.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continues to conceal the true number of the prisoners and denies that it detained dozens of captives whose whereabouts have been documented by video footage or testimonies of the repatriated prisoners of war.

Emboldened by the lack of robust international pressure, Azerbaijan has instead launched proceedings against 58 detainees, in violation of provisions and norms of international humanitarian law, which specifically requires the setting free of all prisoners of war after the cessation of hostilities.

Furthermore, it has failed to provide prior notification about judicial proceedings, specifying the charges, or to extend appropriate legal assistance to the detainees. No detainees are represented by lawyers of their choice, and this in a country where judicial independence is basically non-existent. The judge who is presiding over the trials is notorious for the politically motivated sentences he has imposed upon several Azerbaijani human rights defenders.

In this regard, Azerbaijan has violated not only the norms of international humanitarian law but also the provisions of the trilateral statement, article 8 of which clearly and unequivocally stipulates that all prisoners of war and other detainees shall be exchanged. Armenia has fully complied with its commitment in this respect and has returned all the prisoners of war in its custody to Azerbaijan.

At the recent session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights expressed particular disappointment at the failure of the Azerbaijani authorities to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights.

In May, Freedom House expressed deep concern at the dehumanizing treatment and abuse, including torture, of around two hundred Armenian prisoners of war and detainees, urging Azerbaijan to fully co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights and ensure all protections required under international humanitarian law.

Madam Chairperson,

The Azerbaijani side recently launched a new campaign aimed at harassing and intimidating the people of Artsakh with the sole purpose of creating conditions of permanent insecurity and an atmosphere of fear.

The war of 1991–1994 and the recent 44-day war of aggression have clearly demonstrated that there has been no change in the goal of the Azerbaijani leadership to

ethnically cleanse the occupied territories and complete the expulsion of the Armenians of Artsakh from their homeland.

Therefore, it is not surprising that in order to achieve this goal, Azerbaijan has been persistently targeting the Armenian cultural and religious heritage of Artsakh, through such measures as physical destruction and annihilation as well as the appropriation and misrepresentation of the Armenian identity of cultural and religious monuments.

In parallel, Azerbaijan in effect obstructs the ability of international organizations to access Artsakh to evaluate the humanitarian and other needs of the people. Furthermore, the Azerbaijani authorities are attempting to pressurize the OSCE, which by virtue of its Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship format is the only United Nations Security Council-mandated body to deal with the comprehensive resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Despite the clear position expressed by the Co-Chairs in their statements following the end of the Second Karabakh War, to the effect that the comprehensive settlement of the conflict should address the remaining fundamental issue of the legal status of Artsakh, the Azerbaijani leadership claims that the conflict has been resolved. The objective of this policy is obvious – by denying the continued existence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Azerbaijani authorities also deny the need to take into consideration the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination.

We regret to observe that some of our partners do not seem to be quite aware of this, since some of them, through their silence and indifference, wittingly or unwittingly, are seen to be approving this narrative of Azerbaijan's. The question is whether our partners fully realize the gravity of the possible implications and consequences of this policy of appeasement.

Madam Chairperson,

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of a flagrant violation by Azerbaijan of several core principles of the Helsinki Final Act, namely, refraining from the threat or use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

There should be no illusion that the results of the use of force, accompanied by war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, can ever become the basis for lasting and sustainable peace in the region.

Durable and sustainable peace can be achieved only through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include the determination of the status of Artsakh on the basis of the realization by the people of Artsakh of their inalienable right to self-determination; the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of the recently displaced population to their homes; and the preservation of the cultural and religious heritage of the region.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting. Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1323  
8 July 2021  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1323rd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1323, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for presenting the report on the recent activities of the Chairperson-in-Office. I should like to take this opportunity to draw the Swedish Chairmanship's attention to the concerns of the delegation of Armenia about certain formulations used by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office during her joint press conference with the OSCE Secretary General on 29 June 2021 that were inconsistent with agreed OSCE language. In this regard, it is worth recalling the 2002 OSCE Ministerial Council decision on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, which set out clear guidelines for the activities of the latter to ensure, *inter alia*, "that its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account".

That being said, my delegation would like to think that the aforementioned deviation was an isolated case and hopes that the agreed language and long-established practices of the OSCE, especially with regard to sensitive issues, will be duly adhered to by the Chairperson-in-Office throughout the remainder of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting. Thank you.



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

PC.DEC/1407  
8 July 2021

Original: ENGLISH

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**1323rd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1323, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1407  
DATE AND VENUE OF THE 2021 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN  
CONFERENCE**

(Vienna, Austria, and online, 12 and 13 October 2021)

The Permanent Council,

Decides to hold the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Vienna, Austria and online on 12 and 13 October 2021, hosted by the Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group.

The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will be further elaborated in the framework of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group and submitted to the Permanent Council for adoption.



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

PC.DEC/1408  
8 July 2021

Original: ENGLISH

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**1323rd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1323, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1408**  
**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF**  
**THE 2021 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE**

(Vienna, Austria, and online, 12 and 13 October 2021)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1407 of 8 July 2021 on the date and venue of the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, and online on 12 and 13 October 2021, hosted by the Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group,

Decides to hold the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on the subject “Road to resilience: post-pandemic recovery and security in the OSCE and Mediterranean regions”,

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference, as contained in the annex.

## **AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2021 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE**

Vienna, Austria, and online, 12 and 13 October 2021

### **I. Indicative agenda**

#### **Introduction**

At the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Vienna – the first one to take place in a virtual format due to COVID-19-related restrictions – Ministers and other high-level representatives of the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation met at a critical moment and shared their mutual concerns about the multiple challenges that the spread of the novel virus had raised for their societies, from public health through employment and education to security. With the pandemic still in full force, they concurred that overcoming the crisis would require reviewing existing models of development and governance. In a spirit of genuine partnership, they noted that a return to normalcy would not be possible without a stronger focus on sustainability and a renewed commitment to international co-operation.

Against this backdrop, Poland as the Chairmanship of the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group fostered dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on a range of crucial topics throughout the year, with a view to tackling ongoing challenges as well as seizing available opportunities beyond the crisis. Topics of dialogue included: post-pandemic recovery; transnational organized crime; and youth.

As a coronation of this programme, the 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will address the topic of “Road to resilience: post-pandemic recovery and security in the OSCE and Mediterranean regions”. The event shall start with a high-level political segment addressing “Security and co-operation in the Mediterranean in light of the COVID-19 pandemic”. Thematic sessions shall then tackle specific aspects, including promoting sustainable and “green” recovery, fighting pandemic-related transnational organized crime, and combating human trafficking in labour markets affected by the pandemic.

In so doing, the Conference shall provide a platform for “advancing a common approach in tackling challenges ... and seizing emerging opportunities, in a spirit of genuine partnership, co-operation, and ownership”, as called for by the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18). Among other issues, the Conference shall enhance a discussion on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the security link between the OSCE and Mediterranean regions and how comprehensive security should be understood and operationalized in a post-pandemic context.

**Tuesday, 12 October 2021**

- Registration of participants
- Opening remarks
- High-level political segment: Security and co-operation in the Mediterranean in light of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Coffee break
- Session I: Strengthening international co-operation in fighting transnational organized crime prompted by the pandemic
- Reception

**Wednesday, 13 October 2021**

- Session II: Combating trafficking in human beings in labour markets affected by the pandemic
- Lunch
- Session III: Sustainable recovery as a springboard from socio-economic crisis to security
- Concluding remarks

## **II. Participation**

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) will participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference. The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: Adriatic Ionian Initiative, African Development Bank, African Union, Central European Initiative, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Council of Europe, Economic Co-operation Organization, Eurasian Economic Union, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, European Union, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean, Financial Action Task Force, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Institute for Democracy

and Electoral Assistance, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, Islamic Development Bank, Inter-Parliamentary Union, League of Arab States, Mediterranean Forum, Middle East and North Africa Region Financial Action Task Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, OPEC Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Regional Co-operation Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, South Eastern Europe Co-operation Process, Union for the Mediterranean, UN Habitat, United Nations, UN Al-Qaida Sanctions Monitoring Team, United Cities and Local Governments, UNICEF, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Women, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Bank.

Additional organizations may be invited by the host country to observe the Conference.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations may be invited by the host country to attend and may be invited to contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

Other countries may be invited by the host country to attend and may be invited to contribute to the Conference.

### **III. Organizational modalities**

The Conference will begin at 1 p.m. on the first day and end at 4.30 p.m. on the second day.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur appointed by the Chairmanship. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council for further consideration.

Appropriate arrangements for press coverage will be made.

The 2021 OSCE Mediterranean Conference will be held in English and French. This arrangement will not constitute a precedent that can be relied upon in other circumstances.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Conference. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.