



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

PC.DEC/1457
22 December 2022

Original: ENGLISH

1403rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1403, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1457
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 30 June 2023.

**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 adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for six months, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The Republic of Moldova deeply regrets that it was not possible to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for one year due to the disagreement of one participating State.

We would like to recall Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 of 5 December 2006 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures, according to which the Ministerial Council decided that ‘when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for field operations should be of a one year duration’.

Moldova, as the host country of the Mission, agrees with a one-year extension. And it should not be for any other OSCE participating State to dictate an alternative duration. In this regard, we call on all participating States to strictly follow their commitments.

That being said, we underscore the difficulties of developing a long-term approach under the administrative and financial consequences of the six-month mandate period, which will burden the Mission’s activity.

In addition, considering the regional challenging circumstances, it is more important than ever to keep up the monitoring activities of the Mission. We reiterate our appeal for strict adherence to the rules established by the Joint Control Commission in the Security Zone, and for respect for the Mission’s mandate and assurance of the free movement of Mission members on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova.

We would welcome an open discussion around the extension of the mandate until the end of the year 2023 in order to reduce this logistical, administrative and financial burden for the OSCE.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
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The delegation of the Czech Republic, 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 deplors the isolated position of the Russian Federation to limit the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to six months instead of one year, which is the rule. The Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 reaffirmed that the mandate for field operations should be of a one year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs.

We consider 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 is facing the consequences of the Russian Federation’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

We commend the Head of Mission and her 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, and reports without delay 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 for respect for the Mission’s mandate and for the free movement of Mission 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 decides to join the consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

We call on Russia, as a co-mediator along with the OSCE and Ukraine in the ‘5+2’ format of the negotiations on the Transnistrian settlement process, to reconsider its decision in order to allow for a resumption of a one-year extension of the Mission’s mandate.

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

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹, Albania¹ and Ukraine, the potential candidate country Georgia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra align themselves with this statement.”

¹ North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
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By the delegation of Canada:

“Mr. 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 fully agree with your opening comments, Mr. Chairperson, and with those of the Moldovan ambassador. 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. We sincerely hope the Russian Federation does not plan a similar course as it took with the border observation mission in 2021, when it abused consensus to force reduced mandates of that mission before finally forcing its closure, preventing observation of the border in the critical months leading up to its invasion of Ukraine. Russia’s war against Ukraine has already brought enough hardship and destruction to Moldova.

I would also like to note our concern with the Russian Federation’s argument that they have a right to unilaterally judge the performance of a Head of Mission. This is a false linkage between human resources and a mission’s mandate, which are separate issues. Canada continues to strongly support the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. Separately to this, I would also like to express Canada’s full confidence in the Mission and its Head of Mission to assist Moldova in implementing our shared commitments in extremely difficult circumstances.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
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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.

The United Kingdom notes our strong and resolute support for the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We greatly value the work of the Mission and our strong preference would have been to extend the mandate for one year. This would have been in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06. This decision on strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE structures, which ministers from all participating States agreed, sets out that when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for the operation should be of one year duration. We deeply regret that one participating State, one which is not hosting the Mission, was not able to support the decision to extend the mandate for one year.

We are agreeing to this decision because we support the work of the Mission which has continued despite the current very difficult circumstances created by Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. I want to reiterate our full support for the work of the Mission and thank the Head of Mission and the Mission members for their dedication and commitment. However the UK wants to make clear our concerns that a six month extension will prevent the Mission from being able to plan for a full year and will disrupt the work of the Mission. A 12 month mandate allows the Mission to clearly plan its activities across the year and ensures predictability, certainty and sustainability. The benefits of which clearly outweigh any of the ‘reasons’ put forward by Russia to argue against a 12 month extension.

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

Thank you Mr Chairperson.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
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By the delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States expresses deep disappointment with this Council’s inability to come to consensus on extending the one-year mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. The United States recalls Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and reminds the Russian Federation of its commitment to that decision and to the principle that ‘when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for field operations should be of a one year duration.’ The Russian delegation’s refusal to provide consensus on the Mission’s standard one-year mandate, despite its commitment to do so in Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, is contrary to Russia’s commitments to the participating States of this Organization and yet one more example of Russia holding this entire organization hostage.

Russia’s unconvincing justification for this obstruction is seemingly manufactured only to inflict pain on the OSCE and the Moldovan Mission’s staff – who are doing their very best under incredibly difficult circumstances. Let me be clear: the United States rejects any notion this six-month extension will set a precedent for future mandate negotiations and we have the full expectation this will be a one-time adjustment.

Unfortunately, this latest choice by Russia is only the most recent in a growing list of transgressions. Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and Georgia and its blatant disregard for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova directly contravene the Helsinki Final Act and international law, including the United Nations Charter.

The United States continues to value the critical work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to facilitate a lasting and comprehensive settlement process and in all three dimensions of security. Thanks to Russia’s irresponsible decision, we will now add another burden onto mission staff who are already trying to execute programmes amidst frequent electricity and energy shortages which exacerbate escalating inflation. The United States also supports Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and a comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict with a special status for Transnistria within Moldova’s internationally recognized borders. The United States will continue to assist Moldova on its chosen path towards democratic reform and further European integration.

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

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Attachment 6

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
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By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

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

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 last one year when the host country of the field operation agrees.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”