
Chairmanship: Serbia**1068th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 17 September 2015

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.15 p.m.
Closed: 4.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Žugić

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

Agenda item 1: **REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO
SKOPJE**

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (PC.FR/32/15 OSCE+), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1213/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/1209/15), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1235/15), Turkey (PC.DEL/1231/15 OSCE+), Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Agenda item 2: **REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN
ALBANIA**

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania (PC.FR/31/15 OSCE+), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1214/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/1210/15), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1236/15), Turkey

(PC.DEL/1232/15 OSCE+), Switzerland, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1221/15 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/1225/15)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT
OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO TWO RUSSIAN
CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN
BORDER

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1178 (PC.DEC/1178) on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Ongoing aggression against Ukraine and violations of OSCE principles and commitments by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1228/15 OSCE+), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1215/15/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1238/15 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1226/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1220/15), Canada (PC.DEL/1212/15 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1223/15), Ukraine, United States of America (PC.DEL/1230/15)
- (c) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1229/15 OSCE+), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1219/15), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the

European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1216/15), Russian Federation

- (d) *Violation by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of its mandate: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1222/15 OSCE+) (PC.DEL/1224/15 OSCE+), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1217/15), United States of America, Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Norway), Uzbekistan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1237/15), Kazakhstan, Belarus (PC.DEL/1233/15 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Norway, Turkey (PC.DEL/1227/15 OSCE+), Austria, Chairperson*

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

- (a) *OSCE Ministerial Troika meeting, to be held in Magdeburg, Germany, on 19 September 2015: Chairperson*
- (b) *Side-event on OSCE peace operations at the seventieth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be organized by the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship in New York on 1 October 2015: Chairperson*

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/158/15 OSCE+): Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Announcement related to a sporting event held in Vienna on 12 September 2015: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Monday, 28 September 2015, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1178
17 September 2015

Original: ENGLISH

1068th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1068, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1178
EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO
TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014 on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.DEC/1130),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the deployment of OSCE observers to the two Russian border checkpoints of Donetsk and Gukovo on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 31 January 2016;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/52/15. In this respect, authorizes the use of 400,200 euros from the 2014 year-end revision and 95,800 euros from the provisional 2014 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget of 496,000 euros for the duration of the mandate to 31 January 2016.

**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 Luxembourg, 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 decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union’s views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border are well known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian State border should be an integral part of a sustainable political solution, which fully upholds OSCE principles, and re-establishes Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the Russian-Ukrainian State border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for effective monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of implementation measures includes a commitment to re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its international border.

The OSCE observer mission’s currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the observer mission to all border crossings currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to oppose an expansion of the observer mission.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

PC.DEC/1178
17 September 2015
Attachment 2

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 adoption of the decision for the extension of deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States finds it deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation continues to block expanding the geographic scope of the observer mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States to do so. We once again must accept an inadequate limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which account for just a few hundred metres of the 2,300 kilometre border.

Due to Russia’s unnecessary restrictions of the border observation mission’s work, the mission will continue to be unable to ascertain the extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of illegal arms, funding, and personnel to support the separatists in eastern Ukraine.

We note that Step 4 of the 5 September Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify on both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and to create a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is to the detriment of all efforts to resolve the conflict that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission shows, once again, that it has yet to fulfil its Minsk commitments.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**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 Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the decision on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following 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 Ukraine reiterates the importance of substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border in zones adjacent to the certain areas of Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, all signatories including the Russian Federation undertook to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and its verification by the OSCE with the formation of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Expanding the mandate of the OSCE observation mission in Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border adjacent to the certain areas of Donetsk and Lugansk regions is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist expansion of the mandate of the OSCE observation mission in Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities.

It has no other ground than unchanged intention of Russia to hide from the international community the mounting evidences of Russia’s direct involvement in fuelling the conflict in Ukraine’s east, including by supplying heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops and mercenaries.

We therefore call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith and to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border in zones adjacent to the certain areas of Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1178
17 September 2015
Attachment 4

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:

“The Russian Federation joined the consensus on the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border for four months until 31 January 2016, regarding the work of this team as an important, additional confidence-building measure.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by the parameters of the team’s mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014, which is based on the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 made in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany of 2 July 2014.

We recall that the Minsk agreements in no way touch upon questions regarding the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine, which is reliably patrolled by the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia. The decision to allow OSCE observers on our territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on our part.

As for the Ukrainian side of the border, Ukraine bears complete responsibility for its security and for reaching agreements with the forces that control the situation on the ground on the deployment of international observers there.

I request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”