



**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1203 (PC.DEC/1203) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 2:           DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND  
THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON  
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1204 (PC.DEC/1204) on the recommendation to extend the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Kyrgyzstan (Annex)

Agenda item 3:           REPORT BY THE CHIEF OBSERVER OF THE OSCE  
OBSERVER MISSION AT TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS  
ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Chairperson, Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.FR/7/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-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 countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/349/16), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/337/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/347/16 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/358/16 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/370/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/354/16)

Agenda item 4:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Second anniversary of the illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and its ongoing aggression against Ukraine:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/367/16), Netherlands-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, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/352/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/339/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/348/16 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/360/16 OSCE+), Canada, Norway (PC.DEL/371/16)

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/357/16), Ukraine
- (c) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/368/16), Netherlands-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 countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/351/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/340/16), Canada, Russian Federation
- (d) *Human rights of indigenous women and children in Canada:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/359/16), Canada
- (e) *Violations of the rights of journalists in Latvia and Lithuania:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/362/16), Lithuania (PC.DEL/356/16 OSCE+), Latvia (PC.DEL/366/16)
- (f) *Fundamental freedoms in the Russian Federation:* United States of America (PC.DEL/343/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/361/16)
- (g) *Findings of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in Tajikistan:* United States of America (PC.DEL/344/16), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/345/16 OSCE+)

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

- (a) *Call made by the Chairperson-in-Office for more engagement in combating anti-Semitism, at the Interparliamentary Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism, held in Berlin from 13 to 15 March 2016:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/40/16)
- (b) *Sixty-fourth meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 15 March 2016:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/40/16)
- (c) *Condemnation by the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General of the terrorist attack in Ankara on 13 March 2016:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/40/16)
- (d) *Release of detainees from Tbilisi, Sukhumi and Tskhinvali on 10 March 2016:* Chairperson (CIO.GAL/40/16)

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General:* Head of Conference Services

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Activities of the Informal Working Group on Migration: Switzerland (PC.DEL/365/16 OSCE+)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 7 April 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1093  
17 March 2016  
Annex

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1093rd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1093 Agenda item 2

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KYRGYZSTAN**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished members of the Permanent Council,

Taking into account the importance of ensuring freedom of speech and the human right to self-expression as a key element in the development of democracy, and also acting exclusively in the interests of consensus and with a view to the continued operation of an important OSCE institution, the Kyrgyz Republic, despite its principled opinion of Ms. Dunja Mijatović, has taken the decision to support the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media by one year.

Kyrgyzstan respects the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. At the same time, we should like to underscore and remind Ms. Mijatović of the high level of responsibility of the position of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Impartiality and objectivity are important aspects of the Representative's work. Unfortunately, we have not always seen a commitment to those principles in her work.

We should like to remind Ms. Mijatović that freedom of speech is not the same thing as outright permissiveness. Freedom of speech also entails a responsibility, which, alongside rights, forms the core of any democratic State. No one has the right to make unfounded and groundless accusations against any person, including officials. This universal principle applies both in our country and in other democratic States around the world, and is one of the signs of a mature democracy.

No one, not even the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, is entitled to call into question the right of the independent judicial bodies of a particular State to be rigorous and impartial in their application of norms of domestic legislation which meet all international standards, including those of the OSCE.

Through its practical actions, Kyrgyzstan has always consistently demonstrated an unshakeable and indisputable commitment to the principles of democracy, including freedom of speech and human rights.

This is evidenced by the abolition of criminal prosecution for defamation at a time when in certain countries, defamation (dissemination of untrue information that damages a person's honour and reputation) is regarded not only as a civil but also as a criminal offence.

In conclusion, I should like to point out that Kyrgyzstan's support for the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is a vote for freedom of speech throughout the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.DEC/1203  
17 March 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**1093rd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1093, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1203**  
**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF**  
**THE 2016 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE**

(Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, 6 and 7 June 2016)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 1179 of 22 October 2015 on the dates and venue of the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference, to be held in the Kingdom of Thailand, on 6 and 7 June 2016,

Further to the discussion within the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Welcoming the offer by the Kingdom of Thailand to host the annual conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to hold the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference on strengthening comprehensive security;

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

**AGENDA, TIMETABLE, AND ORGANIZATIONAL  
MODALITIES OF THE 2016 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE ON  
STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY**

Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, 6 and 7 June 2016

**Co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

**Monday, 6 June 2016**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8.30–9.15 a.m.    | Registration of participants   |
| 9.15–10 a.m.      | Opening session (open to the media)<br><br>Chairperson: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation<br><br>Addresses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Representative of the host country</li><li>– Representatives of the Asian Partners for Co-operation</li><li>– Representative of the Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Serbia)</li><li>– Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (Germany)</li><li>– Secretary General of the OSCE</li></ul><br>Photo opportunity (directly following the opening)<br>or<br>Technical break (directly following the opening) |
| 10–10.30 a.m.     | Coffee break   |
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Session 1: Enhancing international efforts to strengthen security co-operation<br><br>Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation<br><br>Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation  |



This session will focus on:

- Cultivating co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)
- Enhancing regional and international co-operation, including best practices in information-sharing to combat terrorism
- Promoting interregional exchange on best practices related to efforts designed to enhance confidence between States in the field of cyber/ICT-security

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

1–3 p.m.

Lunch

3–5.15 p.m.

Session 2: Promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure peace and prosperity

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Promotion of measures to lift people out of poverty and improve their living condition
- Women empowerment and enhancing the role of women in economic development
- Activities in support of global efforts in tackling the world drug problem in the framework of UNGASS 2016 and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator



The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE executive structures 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: Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Council of Europe (CoE), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Representatives of the members of the ARF may attend as guests of the host country. Other countries and organizations may also be invited by the host country.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

### **III. Timetable and other organizational modalities**

The Conference will begin at 9.15 a.m. (opening session) on 6 June 2016 and end at 7 p.m. on 7 June 2016.

The opening and closing sessions will be chaired by a representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and a representative of the host country.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council.

Rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

The opening and closing sessions will be open to the media. The Conference will be held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand. The working language will be English.

PC.DEC/1203  
17 March 2016  
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference, 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 welcomes the adoption of this decision, and we thank Thailand for its generosity in hosting the conference. We look forward to participating.

In connection with working session one, we note it is our understanding that the issues relating to countering violent extremism and combating terrorism will be discussed separately from the unrelated issue of cyber security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

PC.DEC/1204  
17 March 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**1093rd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1093, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1204  
RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF  
THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Permanent Council,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/13, the term of office of the current Representative of Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, expired on 10 March 2016,

1. Requests the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson-in-Office the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (MC.DD/2/16/Rev.2);
2. Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of this decision through a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on 23 March 2016, at 12 noon CET.