

**Chairmanship: Albania**

**1261st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 5 March 2020

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 4.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani  
Mr. A. Stastoli

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION IN  
KOSOVO

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (PC.FR/7/20 OSCE+), Albania, Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/271/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/239/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/242/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/256/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/253/20 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/268/20), Denmark (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 1), United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/258/20 OSCE+), Cyprus (Annex 2), Spain (Annex 3), Serbia (PC.DEL/245/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro (PC.FR/4/20 OSCE+), Croatia-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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/272/20/Corr.1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/240/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/243/20) (PC.DEL/244/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/255/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/259/20 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/269/20), United Kingdom, Serbia (PC.DEL/264/20 OSCE+), Montenegro (PC.DEL/260/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/261/20), Croatia-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 Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/270/20), Canada (PC.DEL/266/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Turkey, United States of America (PC.DEL/248/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/254/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/247/20), Ukraine
- (c) *The case of Mr. J. Assange:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/252/20), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/262/20)

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Circular note on the evolving COVID-19 virus outbreak:* Chairperson
- (b) *International Women's Day, to be observed on 8 March 2020:* Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *OSCE response to the evolving COVID-19 virus outbreak:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/34/20 OSCE+), Chairperson
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Geneva and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the United Nations High Commissioner*

*for Refugees (UNHCR) on 4 March 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/34/20 OSCE+)*

- (c) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the head of the Task Force of the incoming Swedish OSCE Chairmanship, Ms. P. Lärke, on 5 March 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/34/20 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Participation, on 27 February 2020, of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the 43rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), being held in Geneva from 24 February to 20 March: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/34/20 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Address of the Secretary General to the OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security, to be delivered on 6 March 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/34/20 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *General election in the United States of America, to be held on 3 November 2020: United States of America (PC.DEL/249/20) (PC.DEL/263/20), Chairperson, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/246/20)*
- (b) *Update on the ongoing investigation into the tragic killing of journalist and blogger Ms. D. Caruana Galizia on 16 October 2017: Malta (Annex 4)*
- (c) *International Women's Day, to be observed on 8 March 2020: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/251/20), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/274/20 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Zero Discrimination Day, observed on 1 March 2020: Croatia-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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/273/20)*
- (e) *Strategic vision of Uzbekistan on ensuring regional security and tackling problems related to Afghanistan: Uzbekistan*
- (f) *Parliamentary elections in Serbia, to be held on 26 April 2020: Serbia (PC.DEL/267/20 OSCE+)*
- (g) *Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Portugal*

- (h) *Death of the first OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. F. Duve, on 3 March 2020: Germany (Annex 5), Russian Federation*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 12 March 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1261  
5 March 2020  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1261st Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1261, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,  
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND,  
FRANCE, GERMANY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA,  
LITHUANIA, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SLOVENIA,  
SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am making this statement in a national capacity and also on behalf of Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

Mr. Chairperson,

We appreciate the outstanding work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in order to support the authorities of the country in strengthening their institutions. We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Jan Braathu to the Permanent Council and look forward to continuing to work with him in a constructive manner.

We welcome the fact that the Mission is continuously adapting its activities to Kosovo's needs. We recall that the Mission is the second largest of the OSCE field operations and that it plays an essential role in Kosovo. We recognize that, as a matter of good governance within our Organization, one of the best ways to understand how effectively OSCE field operations are implementing their work is to hear directly from the partners and beneficiaries on the ground. Therefore, we consider it essential to have contact between participating States and the Kosovo government administration's technical representatives co-operating with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. We encourage the Albanian Chairmanship to make full use of the next reports of Ambassador Braathu, and every other head of mission who presents to the Permanent Council, to organize such contact on the occasion of the informal meetings. We also underline once more that the organization of such meetings does not and should not affect respective positions on the status of Kosovo with respect to the OSCE. We request that this practice should be resumed as a matter of urgency.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1261  
5 March 2020  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1261th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1261, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Cyprus fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union and expresses its support for the important work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. We would like to thank Ambassador Jan Braathu for his statement and comprehensive report.

The Republic of Cyprus does not recognize the 2008 Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. In this context, my delegation would like to recall that any initiative related to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo should be consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and with Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, which provides the Mission's mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

Progress in the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Priština remains an essential requirement for both in order to advance on their respective European paths. In this respect, it is essential that the dialogue restarts as soon as possible.

I would like to ask for the statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1261

5 March 2020

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

---

**1261st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1261, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain endorses the statement made by the European Union on this agenda item and would like once again to express its support for the important work performed by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo together with other international institutions present on the territory of Kosovo. We should also like to thank Ambassador Jan Braathu for his statement and activity report, and express our appreciation for the work that he is carrying out with his team.

Mr. Chairperson,

Like other participating States, Spain does not recognize the territory of Kosovo as a State and is of the view that any action concerning the OSCE Mission in Kosovo should be in keeping, as a frame of reference, with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Achieving progress in the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Priština dialogue is a prerequisite for both parties to be able to make headway in their respective paths towards Europe. In that regard, the territory of Kosovo has its own specific framework for relations within the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Spain continues to believe that dialogue and negotiation are the only possible means for resolving the dispute over the territory of Kosovo and that there is no point in attempting to expedite recognition of the territory unless a lasting agreement between the Serbian Government and the authorities in Priština is reached beforehand. Spain therefore supports this dialogue and would like to make constructive use of its good offices in order to stimulate it.

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

Thank you.



---

**1261th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1261, Agenda item 6(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In line with our commitment to update the Permanent Council on the ongoing investigation into the murder of Ms. Daphne Caruana Galizia, allow me, Mr. Chairperson, to give an account of the latest developments regarding the case.

Several significant developments have taken place since our last update on 21 November of last year. In the light of the Resolution of Malta's House of Representatives of 12 December 2018, the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 26 June 2019, and appeals made by the family of the late journalist, the Maltese Government has engaged in technical discussions with officials of the Council of Europe with a view to establishing a public inquiry. In view of certain concerns expressed by the family members of Ms. Caruana Galizia about the initial composition of the board of the public inquiry, the Maltese Government met the family and agreement was reached on a new composition of the public inquiry and its terms of reference.

The main aim of the public inquiry is to determine whether any wrongful action or omission by, or within, any State entity facilitated or failed to prevent the death of Ms. Caruana Galizia. The independent public inquiry commenced its proceedings on 6 December. The Board of Inquiry is obliged to conclude its findings within nine months. Regular sittings are taking place on a weekly basis or more often.

Furthermore, a local businessman, Mr. Yorgen Fenech, who is alleged to have been the mastermind behind the murder, has been arrested and is being charged with complicity in the murder of Ms. Caruana Galizia. The compilation of evidence in Mr. Fenech's case is currently under way. The Permanent Council has already been given extensive updates about the three other persons accused of carrying out the murder, who have been served with a bill of indictment.

In the meantime, on the recommendation of the Venice Commission and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Maltese Government has been taking a number of steps towards legal and governmental reform. Following the stepping down of former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and the ensuing major cabinet reshuffle, the Government, now led by Prime Minister Robert Abela, announced the establishment of the Committee on Governance, headed by Justice and Governance Minister Edward Zammit Lewis. The

Committee will review the current Maltese laws in order to effect the changes required for the implementation of the necessary reforms.

The aforementioned concrete measures provide a clear reflection of the value Malta places on good governance and of its willingness to co-operate with international organizations. It remains our intention, in the best interest of all, to remain engaged with the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and their independent institutions, in order to step up our measures in upholding the values of rule of law, democracy and good governance. Malta remains committed to maintaining an open channel for dialogue and co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and appreciates the assistance provided by Mr. Harlem Désir's office.

The fight against impunity and against the climate of impunity which arises when violent acts against journalists go unpunished is paramount to safeguarding freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Malta remains determined to ensure the elimination of impunity in its totality in order to deter any possible future attacks against the safety and dignity of journalists exercising their right to carry out their work without fear. We also call for the full implementation of the provisions agreed in Milan Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 on the safety of journalists (MC.DEC/3/18).

Thank you once again. Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

---

**1261st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1261, Agenda item 6(h)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

We regret to have to inform the Permanent Council that Mr. Freimut Duve, the first OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, passed away on 3 March 2020. He held that office from 1998 to 2003.

Born in 1936 in Würzburg, Freimut Duve was a politician, human rights activist, writer and journalist.

In 1969 and 1970 he was the political editor of the magazine *Stern*. From 1970 to 1989 he was a chief editor at the publishing house Rowohlt, whose publications included the political works of Vaclav Havel and Mario Soares' manifesto against Portugal's dictatorship, as well as several yearbooks on human rights in Central and Eastern Europe.

Freimut Duve was a Social Democratic Party member of the German Bundestag, representing Hamburg from 1980 to 1998. In 1997 he won the Hannah Arendt Award for Political Thought.

During his five years as the first OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media he helped to establish and shape this key autonomous OSCE institution, which to this day remains one of the most prestigious authorities promoting media freedom in all its aspects.

Freimut Duve's publications (as author or editor) included:

- *Kap ohne Hoffnung oder die Politik der Apartheid* (ed. Duve; Rowohlt, 1965)
- *Die Restauration entlässt ihre Kinder oder der Erfolg der Rechten in der Bundesrepublik* (ed. Duve; Rowohlt, 1968)
- *Der Rassenkrieg findet nicht statt: Entwicklungspolitik zwischen Angst und Armut* (Düsseldorf, 1970)
- *Aufbrüche – Die Chronik der Republik 1961–1986* (ed., with Friedrich Krotz; Rowohlt, 1986)
- *Vom Krieg in der Seele: Rücksichten eines Deutschen* (Rowohlt, 1994)

- “Freedom and Responsibility”, Yearbook of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, four issues: 1998–1999/1999–2000/2000–2001/2001–2002
- *The Caucasus – Defence of the Future: Twenty-Four Writers in search of Peace* (ed., with Heidi Tagliavini; Vienna, 2001)
- *We are Defending our Future. mobile. culture. container 2001–2003* (with Achim Koch, following the project of the same name; Fonds Verteidigung unserer Zukunft, Vienna)