
Chairmanship: Germany**1107th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**1. Date: Thursday, 7 July 2016Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 5.05 p.m.2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. Pohl
Ms. S. Stöhr3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANT
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
MR. IVAN ŠIMONOVIĆ

Chairperson, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (PC.DEL/1038/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1046/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1043/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1059/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/1083/16 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1067/16 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1091/16), Canada (PC.DEL/1040/16 OSCE+), Armenia, Georgia (PC.DEL/1074/16 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1056/16), Azerbaijan

Agenda item 2: FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND THE
REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Discussion under agenda item 3

Agenda item 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson, OSCE External Auditor, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1080/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro 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 Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1047/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1060/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1039/16), Armenia

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1209 (PC.DEC/1209) on the financial report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the report of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1210 (PC.DEC/1210) on the 2014 financial report and financial statements and the report of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OSCE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1211 (PC.DEC/1211) on the terms of reference of the OSCE Audit Committee, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 7: 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. 1212 (PC.DEC/1212) 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.

Chairperson, Slovakia-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) (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), United States of America (PC.DEL/1090/16)

Agenda item 8: REPORT BY THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN
UKRAINE

Chairperson, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1079/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro 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, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1048/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1062/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/1085/16 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1068/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1044/16), Norway (PC.DEL/1092/16), Canada (PC.DEL/1041/16 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1057/16 OSCE+)

Agenda item 9: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1058/16), Slovakia-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/1049/16/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1069/16 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1087/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1045/16), Canada (PC.DEL/1078/16 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1063/16), Ukraine

- (c) *Kazakhstan's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017 and 2018*: Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1082/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1064/16), Netherlands (also on behalf of Italy and Sweden), Belarus, Turkey
- (d) *International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, observed on 26 June 2016*: Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1051/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1088/16), Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Norway) (PC.DEL/1072/16 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1076/16 OSCE+)
- (e) *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) people*: Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro 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 Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1052/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1084/16), Canada (PC.DEL/1077/16 OSCE+), Turkey
- (f) *Freedom of association in the Russian Federation*: Slovakia-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 and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1053/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/1050/16) (PC.DEL/1089/16), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1070/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1066/16), Ukraine
- (g) *Release of the human rights defender Ms. S. Korur Fincancı and journalists Mr. E. Önderoğlu and Mr. A. Nesin in Turkey*: Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro 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 Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1054/16/Rev.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/1086/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/1055/16 OSCE+)
- (h) *Violation of the human rights of detainees in the European Union*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1065/16), Slovakia-European Union

- (i) *Terrorist attacks that occurred during the holy month of Ramadan: United States of America (PC.DEL/1073/16), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1081/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Turkey*

Agenda item 10: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Condemnation by the Chairperson-in-Office of the terrorist attack in Istanbul, Turkey, on 29 June 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (b) *Visit by the Chairperson-in-Office to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia from 29 June to 1 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (c) *Address by the Chairperson-in-Office to the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, delivered in Tbilisi on 1 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (d) *Expression of condolences by the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General on the passing of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mr. E. Wiesel on 3 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (e) *Expression of congratulations by the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General to Ms. C. Muttonen on her election as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 5 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (f) *Opening by the Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 of the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), held in Vienna from 28 to 30 June 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (g) *Opening by the Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 of the Chairmanship conference entitled “The OSCE as mediator – Instruments, Challenges, Potentials”, held in Berlin on 6 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (h) *Sixty-seventh meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 28 June 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*
- (i) *Visit by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1 to 4 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/111/16)*

Agenda item 11: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)*
- (b) *OSCE Security Days event entitled “From Confrontation to Co-operation: Restoring Co-operative Security in Europe”, held in Berlin on 23 and*

24 June 2016: Director of the Office of the Secretary General
(SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)

- (c) *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 5 July 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the twenty-seventh Crans Montana Forum on Central to Far-Eastern Europe, held in Vienna on 1 July 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (e) *Participation of the Secretary General in the twenty-fifth anniversary event of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, held in Warsaw on 29 June 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (f) *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Chief Executive Officer of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. R. Singer, on 27 June 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (g) *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Mr. M. O’Flaherty, on 27 June 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (h) *Participation of the Secretary General in a working lunch organized by the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. W. L. Swing, held in Vienna on 5 July 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (i) *Participation of the Adviser on Gender Issues in the high-level gender conference entitled “Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action: the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014–2017”, held in Tallinn on 30 June and 1 July 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (j) *Visit to Bulgaria by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 27 to 29 June 2016*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)
- (k) *Appointment of the new director of the Transnational Threats Department*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/110/16 OSCE+)

Agenda item 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a reference document on migration/refugee flows by the Informal Working Group on Migration: Switzerland (PC.DEL/1071/16 OSCE+)*

- (b) *25th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Tbilisi from 1 to 5 July 2016: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Georgia (PC.DEL/1075/16 OSCE+)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 14 July 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

1107th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1107, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1209
FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND THE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations, particularly Regulations 7.05 and 8.06(e), as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96),

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE, and welcoming the compliance with the adopted International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the Secretariat,

Taking note of the 2015 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/29/16 of 16 June 2016),

Expressing its gratitude to the External Auditor, the Federal Court of Auditors of Germany, for the work done in the last three years and welcomes the readiness of the Court of Audit of Spain to take on the OSCE External Auditor's role,

Taking note of the Unmodified Audit Opinion on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015,

1. Accepts the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015;
2. Requests the Secretary General to establish and submit to the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance not later than 31 October 2016 a work plan for follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor as reflected in its Report for 2015. Further requests the Secretary General to inform the Permanent Council through the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance about the implementation of this plan on a regular basis, taking into account guidance from the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.



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

PC.DEC/1210
7 July 2016

Original: ENGLISH

1107th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1107, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1210
2014 FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations, particularly Regulations 7.05 and 8.06(e), as approved by the Permanent Council on 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96),

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE, and welcoming the completion of adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the Secretariat,

Taking note of the 2014 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 and the Report of the External Auditor (PC.ACMF/39/15 of 16 June 2015),

Expressing its gratitude to the External Auditor, the Federal Court of Auditors of Germany, for the work done,

Taking note of the Unmodified Audit Opinion on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014,

Accepts the 2014 Financial Report and Financial Statements.



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

PC.DEC/1211

7 July 2016

Original: ENGLISH

1107th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1107, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 1211
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OSCE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Permanent Council,

Determined to further strengthen internal and external control mechanisms which are essential for ensuring effective and efficient management of the OSCE,

Taking note of the recommendations of the OSCE Audit Committee and External Auditors regarding further improvement of management in the OSCE,

Recalling that the Terms of Reference of the OSCE Audit Committee, as established by Permanent Council Decision No. 1024 and extended by its Decision No. 1161, can be revised by the Permanent Council as necessary,

Decides to approve the amended Terms of Reference of the OSCE Audit Committee as contained in the annex.

OSCE AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Guiding principle

An Audit Committee shall be established by the Permanent Council to exercise an independent appraisal function, providing the participating States with assurances that the Organization's controls are in place and operating properly. It shall perform this function through independent reviews of the work carried out by the OSCE's system of internal and external controls, including Internal Oversight, the External Auditors and the administration and management of the Organization. It shall also advise the Secretary General in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer. The work of the Audit Committee shall be conducted in accordance with internationally accepted best practices and in compliance with OSCE policies, rules and regulations.

2. Role of the Committee

The Committee shall:

- (i) Review and monitor the adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization's system of internal and external controls, including OSCE internal oversight functions, the external auditor functions and the implementation of audit recommendations;
- (ii) Have the opportunity to present its views to the participating States on the results of the External Auditor's audit of the Organization's financial statements;
- (iii) Have the opportunity to present its views to the Secretary General on the appointment or termination of the assignment of the Director of Internal Oversight within the scope of the OSCE Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and prior to appointment or termination action being taken. In this regard, the Secretary General shall consult the members of the Audit Committee on the short-listing of candidates for the Director, OIO position and may appoint Audit Committee members to the interview panel, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee. The Audit Committee may convene a special meeting for the purpose of advising the Secretary General on these matters;
- (iv) Advise the Secretary General as the Chief Administrative Officer on all policy issues related to the system of internal and external controls and its performance;
- (v) Report to the Permanent Council, through the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance, in particular on any matters of policy requiring corrective action and improvements in the area of controls, including appraisal, audit, investigation and risk management.

3. Membership of the Committee

The Committee shall be composed of three members who shall be senior audit professionals of high standing in the international audit community, fully independent of the OSCE, and with no affiliation with national governments of the OSCE participating States. The Chairmanship-in-Office, in consultation with participating States, shall appoint the members of the Committee. Each member shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee for one year on a rotational basis.

4. Terms of appointment

The members shall serve for terms of three years, extendable for a further period of one year.

5. Rules and procedures

The Audit Committee shall meet for its regular sessions at least twice a year. A minimum of two members shall constitute the quorum. Additional meetings may also be scheduled on an ad hoc basis as necessary. The Chairperson of the Committee shall determine the timing of meetings and the need for any additional meetings in the course of the year. He/she shall also set the agenda of the meetings, taking into account relevant requests of the Permanent Council. The Audit Committee shall be able to call upon OSCE officials and request meetings with other parties as it deems necessary to obtain information relevant to its work. In particular, the Office of Internal Oversight and the External Auditors shall be readily available to respond to inquiries and make presentations to the Committee.

The Audit Committee shall adopt recommendations on a consensus basis. In case of dissent among Committee members, the conclusions of the Chairperson in charge of the meeting, together with the dissenting opinion, shall be presented in the subsequent Committee report.

6. Independence

In performing their functions, the members of the Committee shall neither seek nor receive instructions from any government authorities. They shall act fully independently from any individual OSCE bodies and structures, and shall be guided solely by their expertise and professional judgement, taking into account the collective decisions of the OSCE governing bodies.

For a candidate member to be considered “independent” for the purpose of this section, he/she must be independent in character and judgment. A candidate will not be considered as meeting the independence requirement if he/she has entered into any consulting, advisory or other compensatory contract with the Organization within the past 12 months, or has an immediate family member who is or has been a senior staff member (P5 or above) of OSCE within the last three years. Audit Committee members shall not be eligible for any form of employment with the OSCE for at least 12 months immediately following the last day of their tenure on the Committee.

7. Access to documents

The Audit Committee shall have access to all records and documents of the Organization, including audit reports, investigations, and work documents of the Office of Internal Oversight and the External Auditors. Committee members shall sign non-disclosure statements at the beginning of their tenure.

8. Reporting

- (i) The Audit Committee shall submit an annual report to the Permanent Council.
- (ii) The Audit Committee may also submit ad hoc reports to the Permanent Council as necessary.
- (iii) The Secretary General shall be given the opportunity to comment on all reports prior to their submission. Comments of the Secretary General, which he/she deems necessary, shall be incorporated in the relevant reports.

9. Resources

The Audit Committee shall be provided with such resources as necessary to undertake its duties. Funds shall be included annually in the Unified Budget proposal to provide exclusively for the travel and accommodation costs of the members of the Committee, in accordance with OSCE administrative rules and regulations. The members shall serve without remuneration from the OSCE. The Audit Committee shall also be provided with funds for temporary administrative and secretarial support.

10. Time limit

These Terms of Reference will be in effect for three years after approval by the Permanent Council, and will be revised thereafter as necessary.



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

PC.DEC/1212
7 July 2016

Original: ENGLISH

1107th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1107, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 1212
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 October 2016;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/32/16. In this respect, authorizes the use of 311,100 euros from the provisional 2014 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 31 October 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 Slovakia, 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 Russian-Ukrainian State border are well-known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of this border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments, which re-establishes full Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for permanent monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of Measures includes a commitment to reinstate full Ukrainian control over its entire 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 on the Russia-Ukraine State border 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 and we reiterate the need for the SMM to be assured safe and unhindered access to all parts of the border currently not under Ukrainian Government control since border and ceasefire monitoring are very closely interlinked. Further we underline the need for sufficient equipment for the Observer Mission in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist 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 countries Iceland and

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

Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

PC.DEC/1212
7 July 2016
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 the expansion of 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 together account for only a few hundred meters of the 2,300 kilometre Ukrainian-Russian border, much of which Ukraine does not control.

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

We note that Point 4 of the Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify 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 refuses 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 Permanent Council 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 Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

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 establishment of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions is to be part of implementation of the agreement already reached and is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Donbas.

We regret that the Russian Federation objects to the expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities.

Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can only be attributed to its unchanged intention to continue intervention in Ukraine’s Donbas, including by sending heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring the terrorist activities in the territory of Ukraine. As repeatedly emphasized in the formal communications of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, these actions by Russia constitute internationally wrongful acts, which entail international responsibility. We continue to urge Russia to immediately cease these acts.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith and to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE and establishment of a security zone on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the areas in Donbas which presently are not controlled by the authorities of Ukraine.

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/1212
7 July 2016
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 regarding 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 three months until 31 October 2016, regarding the work of this team as an additional confidence-building measure in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by 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, Germany, France and Ukraine of 2 July 2014.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 does not mention the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. Nor is there any reference to this in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 and subsequently endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The decision to allow OSCE observers on Russian 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 Russia’s part.

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