
Chairmanship: Ireland**915th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 7 June 2012

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. O’Leary
Mr. B. Ward

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

Agenda item 1: OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PC.FR/13/12/Rev.1/Corr.1 OSCE+), Denmark-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/512/12), United States of America (PC.DEL/504/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/517/12 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/510/12 OSCE+), Uzbekistan (PC.DEL/520/12 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE RECRUITMENT POLICIES

Director for Human Resources, Chairperson, United States of America (PC.DEL/505/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/519/12 OSCE+), Norway (also on behalf of Iceland and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/521/12), Turkey (PC.DEL/511/12 OSCE+), Azerbaijan

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Recent violent incidents in northern Kosovo*: United States of America (PC.DEL/507/12), Denmark-European Union (PC.DEL/515/12), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/518/12 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/509/12)
- (b) *Human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the Russian Federation*: Switzerland (also on behalf of Iceland, Canada and Norway) (PC.DEL/523/12)
- (c) *Recent violent incidents at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and along the Line of Contact*: Armenia (Annex 1), Denmark-European Union (PC.DEL/513/12), France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America), Azerbaijan (Annex 2), Chairperson
- (d) *Human rights and fundamental freedoms in Belarus*: United States of America (PC.DEL/506/12), Denmark-European Union (PC.DEL/514/12), Belarus

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

- (a) *Forthcoming visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku, from 11 to 14 June 2012*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/67/12/Rev.1)
- (b) *Participation of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, Ms. C. McGuinness, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Mr. A. Akhmetov, and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Mr. A. Baker, in the Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 30 and 31 May 2012*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/67/12/Rev.1)
- (c) *Visit by the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretary General to Mongolia from 3 to 6 June 2012*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/67/12/Rev.1)

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre* (SEC.GAL/113/12 OSCE+)
- (b) *Organizational matters related to the Security Days, to be held in Vienna on 24 and 25 June 2012*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/113/12 OSCE+)

- (c) *Announcement of the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle, to be held on 13 June 2012:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/113/12 OSCE+)
- (d) *Regional roundtable on Integrated Border Management Strategies, held in Podgorica from 30 May to 1 June 2012:* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/113/12 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 30 and 31 May 2012:* Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/516/12),
- (b) *Trial verdicts in cases related to the recent events in Zhanaozen, Kazakhstan:* Kazakhstan
- (c) *Forthcoming visit by the Permanent Representatives to the OSCE to the South Caucasus:* Norway, Chairperson
- (d) *Parliamentary elections in Lithuania, to be held in October 2012:* Lithuania
- (e) *Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in Beijing on 6 and 7 June 2012:* Kyrgyzstan
- (f) *Joint meeting of the Contact Groups of the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, to be held on 8 June 2012:* Chairperson
- (g) *First meeting of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE, to be held on 8 June 2012:* Chairperson
- (h) *Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee, to be held on 13 June 2012:* Chairperson
- (i) *Organizational matters related to the Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom, to be held on 18 and 19 June 2012:* Chairperson
- (j) *Organizational matters related to the Chairmanship's Beach Volleyball Tournament, to be held on 30 June 2012:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 14 June 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



915th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 915, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Ceasefire violations by Azerbaijani armed forces in the borderline territory of Armenia and on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 915th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the recent deadly incidents on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, as well as on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, as a result of continued ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side.

On 4 June, an Azerbaijani military unit intruded into the Armenian territory and tried to ambush members of the Armenian armed forces near the settlements of Berdavan and Chinari, in the Tavush region of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of these actions, three Armenian servicemen were killed and several soldiers were wounded. Similar attempts of subversive actions took place on 5 and 6 June, again in the territory of the Tavush region, which resulted in a number of casualties.

On 6 June, an Azerbaijani armed unit tried to infiltrate into the contact line between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. In this incident, one Karabakhi soldier lost his life and two were wounded.

Confronted by the flagrant ceasefire violations, which put the lives of civilians and servicemen at risk, the Armenian armed forces were compelled to respond to the subversive actions by the Azerbaijani side.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. On 25 April, Azerbaijani armed forces targeted Dovegh settlement in the Tavush region, specifically firing at a kindergarten. Two days later, the Azerbaijani armed forces intruded and ambushed an Armenian military vehicle, also in the Tavush region. As a result, three Armenian soldiers were killed.

All conflict situations are unique; however, they share a common trait. The conflict resolution can succeed once all the parties reject violence as a means of achieving their goals. This was highlighted throughout the Chairmanship Conference on the Northern Ireland case

study on conflict resolution held on 27 April, and it was the very same day in Dublin that the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group released a statement expressing their concern over the series of ceasefire violations along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the line of contact, particularly over the above-mentioned incidents that occurred in April. The statement *inter alia* stressed, and I quote: “The Co-Chairs strongly condemn any loss of life, and reiterate that there is no alternative to a peacefully negotiated settlement of the conflict”.

Here, I would like to recall the statement made by my delegation at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 22 December last year, which adopted the Unified Budget for 2012. Azerbaijan rejected the request of the Personal Representative of the CiO for an increase in the financial allocation, which would have made operational the agreement between the President of Armenia and Azerbaijan to create an investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations that had been reached at the Sochi Summit on 5 March. In its statement, the Armenian delegation emphasized that, by rejecting implementation of the investigative mechanism, Azerbaijan shouldered full responsibility for further ceasefire violations and the victims caused by them.

In their recent deliberations, the Azerbaijani delegation has continued to reject the implementation of confidence-building measures, notably the proposals of OSCE Chairmanships and the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group on consolidation of the ceasefire, withdrawal of snipers and the creation of a investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations, arguing that the investigative mechanism should become part of a peaceful agreement and that the Presidents had agreed to the idea of an investigative mechanism but not to its implementation, as if agreed ideas should go unimplemented.

This interpretation is also in clear contradiction to the Sochi Joint Statements of 23 January by the Presidents of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

By making belligerent statements, increasing its military budget, every day threatening to start a war, and organizing subversive actions and provocations on the border with Armenia and the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan not only creates obstacles to peaceful negotiations, but also poses a real threat to regional security and stability.

I would like to conclude by quoting the statement made by the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, at the joint press conference with the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton:

“We strongly condemn the brutal provocations organized by the Azerbaijani side on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. It is not enough for Azerbaijan that there are constant violations by Azerbaijanis on the line of contact between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Now they are trying to transfer the tension, and to escalate the situation onto the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which greatly undermines the negotiation process, as well as threatening regional stability. The responsibility for all possible consequences of such activities lies with the Azerbaijani side”.

Thank you.



915th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 915, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to express our view on the matter raised regarding the armed clashes that took place on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and also on the line of contact of the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan considers this event, which led to the death of five soldiers from the Azerbaijani armed forces, to be a deliberate provocation by the Armenian leadership. We condemn these acts by Armenia. We have reliable information from a neutral third party that confirms that the diversion was carried out by Armenia. Through such acts, the Armenian leadership is attempting to distract its population's attention from the difficult socio-economic situation in the country and to garner public support for its militarist and aggressive policy in view of the forthcoming elections in the country. Another goal of this action by Armenia is to create tension along the line of contact in order to distract attention from the negotiating process, in which Armenia is taking a destructive position. This is connected with its efforts to link the liberation of the occupied territories with the determination of the final status of the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. This kind of destructiveness is also being shown in the determination of the parameters of the Lachin corridor which would connect the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan with Armenia. This position also relates to Armenia's refusal to allow internally displaced Azerbaijanis to return to their homes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

We have also heard references today to the mechanisms for investigating incidents. The logical question arises as to how effective this mechanism would be and what the result of its use in this situation would be.

We note that the political and technical aspects of the mechanism are currently being discussed. Before funding is allocated for its implementation, these factors should be considered in detail and agreed upon by both sides. Overall, it seems impossible to implement these measures without progress in the settlement of the conflict.

Some speakers have mentioned confidence-building measures. We should like to point out that confidence-building measures should not lead to the consolidation of the status quo, but should contribute to the settlement of the conflict itself.

We note with regret that the suggestions made by Azerbaijan as an alternative to the current situation have been rejected by Armenia, in particular the establishment of a dialogue between the civil societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan, especially contacts at the level of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region which were affected by the conflict.

Azerbaijan remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

In conclusion, we reserve our right to return to this matter at future meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council if necessary.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.