

Chairmanship: Slovakia**1236th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 18 July 2019

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 6 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč
Ambassador K. Žáková

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, expressed deep sadness over the news of the death from natural causes of Colonel Czesław Kącki from Poland, a monitor from the Kramatorsk Patrol Hub of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Further, the Chairperson also condemned the fatal attack against an official from the Turkish Consulate General that took place in Erbil, Iraq, on 17 July 2019. The Chairperson offered condolences to Turkey and the family, friends and colleagues of the deceased official.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA, H.E. MR. LASHA DARSALIA

Chairperson, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia (PC.DEL/935/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/905/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/956/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/938/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/936/19), Canada, Norway (PC.DEL/921/19), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/943/19), Armenia, Ukraine (PC.DEL/927/19)

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004 OSCE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY

Chairperson, Secretary General, Finland-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/946/19), Switzerland, Turkey, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/906/19), United States of America, Canada, Norway (PC.DEL/924/19), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/941/19 OSCE+), Slovenia (PC.DEL/913/19/Rev.2), Holy See (PC.DEL/933/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom

Agenda item 3: REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (PC.FR/22/19 OSCE+), Finland-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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/945/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/908/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/958/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/937/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/909/19), Norway (PC.DEL/925/19), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/942/19 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/920/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/928/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/911/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/957/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/937/19 OSCE+), Canada, Finland-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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/949/19), France (also on behalf of Germany) (PC.DEL/930/19 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/914/19), Ukraine

- (b) *Third anniversary of the attempted coup d'état in Turkey on 15 July 2016:* Turkey (PC.DEL/939/19 OSCE+), Finland-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; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/947/19), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/953/19 OSCE+)
- (c) *Second International Conference on Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking in the Context of Fighting International Terrorism, to be held in Moscow on 5 and 6 September 2019:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/917/19)
- (d) *Parliamentary election in Austria, to be held on 29 September 2019:* Austria
- (e) *Latest developments in the investigation into the killing of journalist Ms. D. Caruana Galizia in Malta:* Malta (Annex)
- (f) *Briefing, held in Vienna on 2 July 2019, on the Global Conference for Media Freedom, held in London on 10 and 11 July 2019:* United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada) (PC.DEL/944/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/919/19)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 25 July 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1236
18 July 2019
Annex

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1236th Plenary Meeting

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA

Mr. Chairperson,

I take the floor today to update the Permanent Council and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on an important development in the investigation into the murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was killed by a car bomb as she was driving away from her home on 16 October 2017.

On 16 July 2019, Malta's Attorney General issued a bill of indictment bringing formal charges against the three men accused of having committed the murder. The compilation of evidence before the Court of Magistrates sitting as a court of criminal inquiry has been ongoing since their arrest on 4 December 2017, 49 days after Ms. Caruana Galizia's murder. The three co-accused will now stand trial, with the proceedings to be presided over by a judge whose name was drawn by lot.

The 18-page bill of indictment lists six charges against the co-accused, including wilful homicide, detonation of an explosive causing the death of a person, possession of explosive material, and membership of a criminal organization. The three co-accused are facing the prospect of life imprisonment, since two of the offences they stand accused of are punishable with the maximum penalty under Maltese law.

The fact that the three co-accused have been served with a bill of indictment means that they are not eligible for bail anymore.

The Government of Malta welcomes this positive development, and further reiterates its determination that there will be no impunity in this case, and that justice will be done.

As in the past, we remain willing and ready to provide both the Permanent Council and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media with further updates on any developments in this case.

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