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**Chairmanship: Slovakia****1239th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 5 September 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.  
Closed: 6.30 p.m.

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

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Sander Soone; the new Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Christine Fages; the new Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj; the new Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam; and the new Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Wolfgang A. Brühlhart.

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, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/989/19), 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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1030/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1025/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/1013/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1010/19 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1021/19), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/998/19 OSCE+), Latvia (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the

United Kingdom) (Annex 1), Cyprus (Annex 2), Spain (Annex 3), Albania (PC.DEL/1011/19 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/999/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 3

Agenda item 3: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/994/19), 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 Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1029/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1026/19), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1018/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1035/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1016/19 OSCE+), Belarus, Canada (PC.DEL/1036/19 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1020/19), Georgia (PC.DEL/1008/19 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1000/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1001/19)

Agenda item 4: 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. 1344 (PC.DEC/1344) 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.

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 Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 5:           DECISION ON SUPPLEMENTING THE OSCE IT  
                                  INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE FUND

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1345 (PC.DEC/1345) on supplementing the OSCE IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 6:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a)    *Russian violations of the right to peaceful assembly and its election-related commitments:* United States of America (PC.DEL/1028/19), 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 Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1034/19), Canada (PC.DEL/1038/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/990/19), Germany, France
- (b)    *Recent developments on Georgia's occupied territories:* Georgia (PC.DEL/1009/19 OSCE+), 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 Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1033/19), Lithuania (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1007/19 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1039/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1002/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/991/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1023/19)
- (c)    *International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, observed on 30 August 2019:* Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1032/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1027/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/1015/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/993/19), Turkmenistan
- (d)    *The death penalty in Belarus and in the United States of America:* 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; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1031/19), Norway (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland)

(PC.DEL/1022/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/992/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1024/19), Belarus (PC.DEL/1004/19 OSCE+)

- (e) *Violation of human rights of the indigenous population in Canada: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1003/19), Canada (PC.DEL/1037/19 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 7:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, held in Tokyo on 2 and 3 September 2019: Chairperson*
- (b) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in the Concluding Meeting of the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, to be held in Prague from 11 to 13 September 2019: Chairperson*
- (c) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, to be held in Warsaw from 16 to 27 September 2019: Chairperson*
- (d) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in a high-level OSCE Chairmanship conference on security sector governance and reform entitled “Preventing Conflict, Sustaining Peace and Promoting Comprehensive Security for All”, to be held in Bratislava on 9 and 10 September 2019: Chairperson*
- (e) *Ambassadorial visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, to take place from 6 to 11 October 2019: Chairperson, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan*

Agenda item 8:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/151/19 OSCE+): Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre*
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Belarus on 2 and 3 September 2019: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/151/19 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the EU Ambassadors’ Conference 2019, held in Brussels on 2 September 2019: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/151/19 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General, on 24 and 25 August, in the European Forum Alpbach 2019, held in Alpbach, Austria, from 14 to 30 August 2019: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/151/19 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Participation of the Secretary General in the first meeting of experts of the Co-operative Security Initiative (CSI), held in Vienna on 30 August 2019: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/151/19 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the OSCE, Ambassador D. Plejić-Marković: Chairperson, Dean of the Permanent Council (Liechtenstein), Croatia*
- (b) *Parliamentary election in Belarus, to be held on 17 November 2019: Belarus (PC.DEL/1006/19 OSCE+)*
- (c) *First Caspian Economic Forum, held in Avaza, Turkmenistan, on 12 August 2019: Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1017/19 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (Annex 4), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/996/19), Kyrgyzstan*
- (d) *2019 OSCE Asian Conference, held in Tokyo on 2 and 3 September 2019: Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Italy*
- (e) *OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tour, to take place on 28 September 2019 (CIO.INF/73/19 OSCE+): Kazakhstan, Chairperson*
- (f) *Parliamentary election in Portugal, to be held on 6 October 2019: Portugal*
- (g) *Parliamentary election in Poland, to be held on 13 October 2019: Poland*
- (h) *Draft update to the Framework for Co-operation and Co-ordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the OSCE: Canada*

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 10 September 2019, at 2.30 p.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1239  
5 September 2019  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**1239th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1239, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

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

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. Therefore, we consider it essential to have contacts between participating States and the Kosovo government administration's technical representatives co-operating with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. As the Austrian and Italian Chairmanships had taken concrete steps in this regard, we regret that the Slovak Chairmanship did not enable the organization of such contacts on the occasion of the informal meeting with Ambassador Braathu yesterday. We would like to recall that such contacts are beneficial to the good governance of the OSCE. We also underline once more that their organization 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/1239  
5 September 2019  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1239th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1239, 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.

Mr. Chairperson,

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.

Cyprus regrets that Pristina's decision to impose unilateral tariff increases of up to 100 per cent on imports from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina remains in place. This decision undermines regional co-operation, is in violation of Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) obligations and of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), and should be revoked.

I would like to ask for this 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/1239  
5 September 2019  
Annex 3

ENGLISH  
Original: SPANISH

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**1239th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1239, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Madam Chairperson,

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

Madam 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 in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement its own specific framework for relations with the EU.

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.

Madam Chairperson,

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

Thank you very much.





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**1239th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1239, Agenda item 9(c)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks the distinguished delegate of Turkmenistan for sharing detailed information on its successful hosting of the First Caspian Economic Forum on 11 and 12 August.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to co-operation with Caspian littoral States, including co-operation in such areas as economy, transport and energy on the basis of mutual respect and confidence. Azerbaijan welcomed the organization of the Forum and participated with a high-level delegation headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Novruz Mammadov. The Forum provided a new format for discussion of the topics relevant to regional economic growth and contributed to the expansion of co-operation in trade, transport, investment and tourism between the Caspian littoral States. We positively assess hosting of the Caspian Innovation Technologies Exhibition on the margins of the Forum, which we hope will give additional impetus to enhancing the ties between the business communities.

Trade facilitation and the promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through establishment of efficient multimodal transport corridors can contribute to the economic development and prosperity of the Caspian region. As an initiator of and active participant in the regional and trans-regional projects, Azerbaijan firmly believes that the development of joint projects on energy, transport, infrastructure and logistics can further unleash the region's economic and trade potential. The OSCE extrabudgetary project "Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region", launched this June in Baku, is just one practical example of that co-operation. This project will enhance the capacities of the relevant participating States to employ renewable energy, in particular in port operations in the Caspian Sea, and will promote connectivity through transport and trade facilitation among the ports in the Caspian Sea and the wider region, especially among the Central Asian participating States. We encourage all OSCE participating States to continue extending their support to this extrabudgetary project and we trust that the OSCE will contribute to the implementation of the project through all its relevant funds.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.DEC/1344  
5 September 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1239th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1239, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1344**  
**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 January 2020;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/48/19/Rev.1 of 19 August 2019. In this respect, authorizes the use of 477,600 euros from 2018 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 31 January 2020.

**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 Finland, 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 Russian-Ukrainian 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 the monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian 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 Russian-Ukrainian 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 (SMM) 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 and sufficient freedom of movement for the Observer Mission at the current crossing stations in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We do not see any grounds for the Russian Federation’s continued resistance to the long overdue expansion of the Observer Mission, including the improvement of its equipment and urge it to reconsider its position.

We welcome the mandate extension by four months, and would support an extension to a longer period of time increasing the Mission’s continuity and consistency.”

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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

**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 consistently reiterates the importance of having a substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border adjacent to the Russia-occupied parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. We urge the Russian Federation to lift all restrictions which undermine the efficiency of the Mission’s monitoring in ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ checkpoints.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, the Russian Federation, committed to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification by the OSCE with the establishment of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. As a part of the implementation of this provision, the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ must be expanded. This will greatly contribute to sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

We reiterate our call to the Russian Federation to allow expansion of the mandate of the border Observer Mission to all sections of the border that are temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities. We deeply regret that until now the Russian Federation continues to strongly resist it. Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can be attributed only 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. We continue to urge Russia to cease immediately these internationally wrongful acts.

In this connection, the delegation of Ukraine recalls that Russia has not responded to numerous requests for explanations regarding the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission’s (SMM) reported presence in the occupied parts of Donbas of modern Russian weapons and

military equipment including the jamming system R-330 'Zhitel', electronic warfare system RB-341V 'Leer-3' and the most modern Russian satellite communication jamming complex 'Tirada-2', that were observed by the SMM in Ukraine during this year.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith and to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the temporarily occupied areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions with establishment of a security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

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.”

**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:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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 Russia 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 metres 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 fails to ascertain the full extent to which Russia participates in or facilitates the flow of arms, funding, and personnel to support its proxies 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. Russia’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission demonstrates, regrettably, once again, Moscow’s unwillingness to take its Minsk commitments seriously.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1344  
5 September 2019  
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 latest 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 four months (until 31 January 2020), viewing the work of this team as a voluntary confidence-building measure in addition to the process for the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm the immutability of the mandate, and of the organizational modalities and deployment location for the work of the team of OSCE observers defined therein, which were clearly laid down in Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014. That decision was 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 in no way mentions 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 Ukrainian border guards and customs officers to be present at Russian checkpoints is solely a goodwill gesture on Russia’s part.

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





**1239th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1239, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1345  
SUPPLEMENTING THE OSCE IT INFRASTRUCTURE  
UPGRADE FUND**

The Permanent Council,

Seeking to ensure that extended support is available for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure so that the OSCE continues to maintain secure information and communication technology (ICT) systems and infrastructure, which are key to a stable operational environment,

Recalling the establishment of the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund (PC.DEC/1322),

Taking note of the document entitled “Proposal to mitigate the risk of vendor support expiration for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure” (PC.ACMF/44/19/Rev.1),

Decides to:

Supplement the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund in order to finance necessary 2019 measures aimed at mitigating, in line with document PC.ACMF/44/19/Rev.1, the risk of vendor support expiration for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure;

Request that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) undertake efficiency enhancement efforts so that an amount of 214,000 euros can be reallocated from its budget for 2019–2020 and used to finance the implementation of necessary 2019 measures – attributable to the SMM – aimed at mitigating the risk of vendor support expiration for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure;

Allocate, on an exceptional basis, 416,000 euros from available cash surpluses to the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund in order to finance the implementation of necessary 2019 measures – attributable to all OSCE executive structures and field operations except the SMM – aimed at mitigating the risk of vendor support expiration for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure.

Requests that the Secretary General present the remaining financial requirements of this project together with the 2020 Unified Budget submission.

PC.DEC/1345  
5 September 2019  
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 Armenia:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on supplementing the OSCE IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund, Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Armenia joined the consensus on the adoption of the decision on supplementing the OSCE IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund to ensure extended support for the ICT Core Platform Infrastructure and continuity in maintaining secure information and communication technology (ICT) systems and infrastructure.

In joining the consensus on this decision, Armenia proceeded from the understanding that the Organization’s resources, knowledge and experience accumulated over many years through the OSCE Unified Budget, as well as its IT infrastructure are crucial for the implementation of OSCE activities, including extrabudgetary projects implemented by the OSCE institutions and executive structures.

Having said that, Armenia remains deeply disappointed with the implementation of the extrabudgetary project ‘Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region’, launched on 14 June 2019 in Baku. We continue to insist that this project is conflict-related. It obstructs the inclusive co-operation and dialogue, further deepening the dividing lines in the South Caucasus region.

We also regret that although the Permanent Council in its Decision No. 1322 of 28 March 2019 has requested the Secretary General as Fund Manager to ensure that the activities foreseen under this Fund are completed in the most cost-effective and timely manner, we again face a situation when a significant amount of resources from available cash surpluses are allocated to the OSCE IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”