1242nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 3 October 2019
   
   Opened: 10.05 a.m.
   Suspended: 1 p.m.
   Resumed: 3 p.m.
   Closed: 5.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč
   Ambassador K. Žáková
   Mr. S. Kantor

   Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador E. Kraleva.

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

   Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE CHIEF OBSERVER OF THE OSCE OBSERVER MISSION AT TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

   Chairperson, Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.FR/26/19 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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1095/19/Rev.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/1075/19), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1090/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1071/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1082/19)
Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION BY THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 2020 UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL

Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/166/19 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; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1093/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1078/19/Rev.1 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1079/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1096/19 OSCE+), Switzerland, United States of America (PC.DEL/1076/19), France (PC.DEL/1072/19 OSCE+), Norway, Canada (PC.DEL/1100/19 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia (PC.DEL/1092/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

(a) Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1081/19), 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, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1094/19/Rev.1), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1091/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1077/19), Canada (PC.DEL/1101/19 OSCE+)

(b) Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements: Russian Federation (Annex 1) (PC.DEL/1070/19/Corr.1), Chairperson, Ukraine

(c) Violation of the educational rights of national minorities in Latvia: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1084/19), Latvia (PC.DEL/1089/19 OSCE+)

(d) Violation of freedom of peaceful assembly in the United States of America, Canada and some Member States of the European Union: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1083/19), France (PC.DEL/1080/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Germany (PC.DEL/1087/19 OSCE+), Canada, United States of America, Latvia

(e) Continuing restrictions on freedom of the media in the Russian Federation: United States of America, Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1099/19), Germany (PC.DEL/1088/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1074/19 OSCE+)
Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

(a) Launch of the Chairmanship-in-Office’s “Mediation Hub” initiative in Bratislava on 30 September 2019: Chairperson, Russian Federation

(b) Ambassadorial visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, to take place from 6 to 11 October 2019: Chairperson

(c) Distribution of a discussion paper on enhancing support for OSCE Chairmanships (CIO.GAL/135/19 Restr.): Chairperson

(d) Reinforced ambassadorial retreat to be held in Bratislava on 19 November 2019: Chairperson, Russian Federation

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

(a) Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+): Secretary General

(b) Participation of the Secretary General in the general debate of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly from 24 to 27 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(c) Visit of the Secretary General to Moldova from 17 to 19 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(d) Participation of the Secretary General in the Warsaw Security Forum, being held on 2 and 3 October 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(e) Participation of the Secretary General in the launch of the Chairmanship-in-Office’s “Mediation Hub” initiative in Bratislava on 30 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation

(f) 2019 OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting, held on 23 and 24 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(g) Participation of the Secretary General in the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, held in Warsaw from 16 to 27 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(h) Participation of the Secretary General in a high-level Chairmanship conference on security sector governance and reform, held in Bratislava on 9 and 10 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

(i) Participation of the Secretary General in the regional meeting of heads of OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, held in Pristina on 30 September and 1 October 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)
First OSCE simulation-based training in combating trafficking in human beings along Mediterranean migration routes, held in Vicenza, Italy, from 16 to 20 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

Visit to Reykjavik by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, undertaken on 10 and 11 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

Visit to Croatia by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, undertaken from 3 to 5 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

OSCE expert workshop on youth, peace and security, held on the island of Sandö, Sweden, from 3 to 6 September 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

Call for nominations for the 2019 White Ribbon award for the promotion of gender equality in the OSCE: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/167/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

General election in Spain, to be held on 10 November 2019: Spain (Annex 2)

Fifth Eastern Economic Forum, held from 4 to 6 September 2019 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation: Russian Federation

Early parliamentary elections in San Marino, to be held on 8 December 2019: San Marino

Adoption, on 12 September 2019, of the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “International Year of Peace and Trust, 2021”: Turkmenistan, Russian Federation

Local elections in Bulgaria, to be held on 27 October 2019: Bulgaria

OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tour held on 28 September 2019: Kazakhstan

Next meeting:

Thursday, 10 October 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal
STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

In view of the recent arrangements within the Normandy format and in the Trilateral Contact Group with regard to the settlement of the crisis in Ukraine, the Russian Federation suggests reorganizing the framework of discussions related to developments in Ukraine in the OSCE Permanent Council. The Russian Federation proposes to replace the two current issues regularly raised respectively by Ukraine and the Russian Federation with the following one: “Ukraine: Current developments and ongoing activities for a comprehensive implementation of the Minsk Agreements”.

We request that this statement be included in the journal of the day of today’s meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.
Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to inform the Permanent Council that His Majesty the King of Spain has ordered, by Royal Decree No. 551/2019 of 24 September, the dissolution of Parliament and the convening of a general election to both houses, which will take place on 10 November.

In accordance with the commitments under the Copenhagen Document of 1990 and the provisions of the Charter for European Security of 1999, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights have been invited to observe the election proceedings. This invitation also extends to the participating States that wish to participate in these activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.