
Chairmanship: Slovakia**1248th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 21 November 2019

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 7.10 p.m.

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

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Chairperson, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM.GAL/6/19/Rev.1), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1337/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1326/19), Azerbaijan, Turkey (PC.DEL/1368/19 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1325/19), Kazakhstan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1371/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1352/19), Serbia (PC.DEL/1367/19 OSCE+), Canada, Georgia (PC.DEL/1355/19 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1361/19), Montenegro (PC.DEL/1360/19 OSCE+), Malta (PC.DEL/1336/19 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/1346/19 OSCE+), Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1335/19 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Cyprus (PC.DEL/1332/19 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1359/19 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Latvia (PC.DEL/1327/19 OSCE+), Tajikistan, Finland-European Union, France, United Kingdom

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN
ALBANIA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania (PC.FR/32/19 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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1338/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1329/19), Norway (PC.DEL/1344/19), Kazakhstan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1372/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1353/19), Albania (PC.DEL/1345/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1349 (PC.DEC/1349) on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

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

Agenda item 4: REPORT BY THE OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS

OSCE Special Representative and Co-Ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SEC.GAL/193/19), 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/1339/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1330/19), Kazakhstan, Turkey (PC.DEL/1369/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1373/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1354/19), Georgia (PC.DEL/1356/19 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1333/19 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/1370/19 OSCE+), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1328/19 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/1347/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1362/19), 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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1340/19), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1358/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1351/19), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1349/19), Ukraine

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Reinforced ambassadorial retreat, held in Bratislava on 19 November 2019 (CIO.GAL/147/19 Restr.)*: Chairperson
- (b) *Preparations for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 December 2019*: Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Regional workshop on prevention of human trafficking in supply chains through public procurement, held in The Hague on 18 and 19 November 2019*: Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General
- (b) *Presentation on an extrabudgetary project, entitled "Supporting Tajikistan in combating domestic violence: Evaluation results of the project Women's Resource Centres in Tajikistan Phase II and suggested way forward", to be held on 25 November 2019*: Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General
- (c) *Call for nominations for the positions of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe and Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan*: Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Eighty-sixth anniversary of the Holodomor*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1363/19), Canada, Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade

Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1341/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1364/19), Russian Federation

- (b) *Illegal detention of Mr. V. Gaprindashvili*: Georgia (PC.DEL/1357/19 OSCE+), 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 Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1342/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/1365/19), Russian Federation
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in Belarus, held on 17 November 2019*: Belarus (PC.DEL/1331/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1366/19), 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; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1343/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1350/19), Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan
- (d) *Twenty-fourth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement*: Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1334/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1348/19)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 28 November 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1248th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1248, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1349
**TIMETABLE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Bratislava, 5 and 6 December 2019)

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be conducted in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure,

Adopts the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council as set out below.

Timetable

Thursday, 5 December 2019

- 10 a.m. **Opening session (open)**
- Formal opening and adoption of the agenda
 - Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
 - Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
 - Report by the OSCE Secretary General
- First plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by heads of delegations
- 1.15 p.m. Family photo
- 1.30 p.m. Working lunch for heads of delegations

- Separate lunch for members of delegations

3–6 p.m. **Second plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations

7.30 p.m. Official dinner for heads of delegations

Reception for members of delegations

Friday, 6 December 2019

10 a.m. **Third plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations
- Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
- Closing statements by delegations
- Any other business

Closing session (open)

- Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)

1.30 p.m. Press conference

**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 Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement.

Paragraph IV.2(B)2 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure states that ‘the decision on the timetable and organizational modalities for each Ministerial Council meeting shall be adopted by the Permanent Council not later than one month before the meeting.’

While the European Union welcomes the decision adopting the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, we regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for the Meeting, and in particular on which organizations to invite and the modalities of their participation.

Under the OSCE Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministerial Council, Paragraph IV.2(B)5 states that, ‘For each meeting, the Permanent Council shall specify the list of international organizations, institutions, and initiatives to be invited to attend and to make oral and/or written contributions.’ In the absence of consensus on this issue, the Chairmanship-in-Office should fall back on past agreed modalities.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization of future Ministerial Council meetings.

We request that this statement be attached to the relevant decision.”

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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

PC.DEC/1349
21 November 2019
Attachment 2

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:

“In joining the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the adoption of the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Russian Federation expresses its deep disappointment at the fact that once again it proved impossible to reach agreement on a list of international organizations, institutions and initiatives whose representatives will be invited to the Ministerial Council meeting and will have the right to address the meeting and/or distribute written statements, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Unfortunately, during the discussions, it again proved impossible to agree on the question of equal rights for organizations. We note the attempts to establish a discriminatory hierarchy for them, artificially giving some a higher status than others. This contravenes the provisions of the Platform for Co-operative Security of the 1999 Charter for European Security.

The Russian Federation hopes that in future the OSCE participating States will manage to overcome their differences on this question.

We take the position that, in the absence of a Permanent Council decision on the organizational modalities for the holding of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, statements by representatives of international organizations during the Ministerial Council meeting should be possible solely in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE – only on the basis of an oral consensus decision by all OSCE participating States.

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

PC.DEC/1349
21 November 2019
Attachment 3

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 Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Canada regrets that consensus could, once again, not be reached on the modalities for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, in particular on which organizations should be invited and on the modalities for their participation.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization of future Ministerial Council meetings.

We invite the Chairmanship to draw upon past agreed modalities to conduct this important meeting.

We ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and included in the journal of the day.”

**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.

The United States wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The United States welcomes the adoption of this decision on a timetable for the Ministerial Council meeting in Bratislava. We regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for the meeting, specifically over the question of which organizations should be invited to speak to the distinguished participants.

According to the draft modalities, 63 international organizations, institutions and initiatives would have been specifically invited to deliver written comments at the Ministerial Council. Out of respect to the limited duration of the meeting, three highly reputable and particularly relevant organizations would have been invited to deliver their remarks orally regarding issues of common interest with the OSCE.

All OSCE participating States are members of the United Nations, nearly all (50) are members or observer States of the Council of Europe, and 29 – very soon to be 30 – are members of NATO. Another 21 OSCE participating States are NATO partner countries. The interlinkages of the OSCE’s mandate and activities with those the UN, Council of Europe, and NATO are vast and support regional security and co-operation. We would have benefited greatly from hearing at the highest levels what these three organizations had to say about further co-operation with the OSCE.

Instead, OSCE participating States will benefit this week from none of these 66 organizations because a few delegates believed that the insights on regional security and co-operation from the UN, Council of Europe, and NATO were of lesser importance than in trying to boost the credibility of an organization of just six members and subregional scope. Furthermore, that organization – in stark contrast to the other three – does not meet the qualifications of an OSCE partner, according to the commitments participating States made under the 1999 Istanbul Document’s Charter for European Security, paragraph I.32, and the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, paragraphs I.1-2.

When the Permanent Council fails to reach consensus on a list of organizations invited to attend and make oral and/or written contributions, we join other delegations in inviting the Chairmanship to draw upon past agreed modalities to conduct this important meeting.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization at future Ministerial Council meetings.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”