1249th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. **Date:** Thursday, 28 November 2019

   Opened: 10.10 a.m.
   Suspended: 12.45 p.m.
   Resumed: 3.15 p.m.
   Closed: 5.10 p.m.

2. **Chairperson:** Ambassador R. Boháč
   Ambassador K. Žáková
   Mr. Matej Kresáč

   Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, offered condolences to Albania in connection with the earthquake on 26 November 2019. He also extended condolences to France in connection with the deaths of thirteen French soldiers in the tragic helicopter accident in Mali on 25 November 2019.

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

   **Agenda item 1:** ADDRESSES BY THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION, ALSO FOCUSING ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS (VIDEO ADDRESS); THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS; AND THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM

   Chairperson, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism (CIO.GAL/153/19 OSCE+), Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (CIO.GAL/155/19 OSCE+), Personal
Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions (CIO.GAL/154/19 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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1384/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/1394/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1375/19), Azerbaijan, United States of America (PC.DEL/1383/19), Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Holy See (PC.DEL/1376/19 OSCE+), Denmark, Bulgaria, Ireland, Armenia, France (PC.DEL/1382/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Germany, Finland-European Union

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON FORWARDING OF A DRAFT DOCUMENT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1350 (PC.DEC/1350) on forwarding of a draft document to the Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1351 (PC.DEC/1351) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1352 (PC.DEC/1352) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1353 (PC.DEC/1353) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the text of which is appended to this journal.
Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1354 (PC.DEC/1354) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 7: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1355 (PC.DEC/1355) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

(a) *Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1390/19), 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/1385/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/1395/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1387/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1391/19 OSCE+), Canada

(b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation, Ukraine

(c) *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on 25 November 2019:* 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, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1386/19), United States of America, Norway (also on behalf of Canada, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/1392/19), Canada, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1377/19), Portugal, Spain (Annex)

(d) *Law on “foreign agents” in the Russian Federation:* 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/1388/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1378/19 OSCE+)

(e) Violations of educational and linguistic rights of national minorities in Latvia: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1379/19), Latvia (PC.DEL/1389/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 9: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

Preparations for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 December 2019: Chairperson, Ukraine

Agenda item 10: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

(a) Visit of the Secretary General to Dublin on 27 November 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(b) Participation of the Director of the Office of the Secretary General in the 25th Lisbon Forum, held on 25 and 26 November 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(c) 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(d) First Model OSCE Conference, held in Batumi, Georgia, from 19 to 23 November 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(e) Cybercrime workshop organized by the Transnational Threats Department, held in Baku on 19 November 2019: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(f) Recent earthquake in Albania: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+)

(g) Update on the recruitment process for Director positions in the OSCE Secretariat: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/195/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Turkey, France, Germany

Agenda item 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Presidential election in Croatia, to be held on 22 December: Croatia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 12 December 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Spain endorses the statement by the European Union on behalf of the Member States and would like at the same time to make the following statement in a national capacity.

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Council of Ministers of the Government of Spain adopted a declaration at its meeting last Friday, in which it underlines its firm commitment to continue devoting all its efforts to combating violence against women in all its manifestations, its solidarity with the victims and its most categorical condemnation of attitudes and acts of violence against women on grounds of sex or gender, and to guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women.

December 2019 will mark the 15th anniversary of the unanimous approval by the Congress of Deputies of Organic Law 1/2004 of 28 December on Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence, which represents a milestone in public policies aimed at combating violence against women, a worldwide pioneering law that has made Spain into an international point of reference.

This is the first normative instrument dealing with gender-based violence in a comprehensive and multidisciplinary manner, encompassing preventive, educational, social, assistance and victim care aspects, including civil legislation relating to the family or domestic environment, where most of the aggressions take place, as well as the punitive response to manifestations of violence.

In the 15 years since the approval of Organic Law 1/2004 of 28 December, it has not remained a static norm but has evolved continuously, with modifications regarding orphans’ pensions, guaranteed free legal assistance to victims, increased protection of the minor children of victims of gender violence and minors in guardianship or custody, and – most recently in 2018 – the incorporation of some of the measures provided for in the State Pact against Gender-Based Violence, adopted by the Spanish Parliament in 2017 without a single vote against, and in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Spain’s commitment in this area goes beyond its borders. Achieving gender equality (Sustainable Development Goal 5 of Agenda 2030) and opposing violence against women are
objectives that guide Spain’s external action and its development co-operation policy. In addition, within the framework of the obligation of the public authorities to protect Spaniards abroad, the obligation by the consular sections of Spanish embassies and consular offices to assist and protect women victims of gender-based violence is now singled out, and these tasks relating to gender-based violence are mentioned in the services provided.

We all have a great responsibility in the face of the challenge of building a society free of violence against women. Public administrations, professionals in the fields of security, justice, education, social and health services, as well as businesses, women’s associations, the media and, in general, civil society as a whole, are called upon to support victims and to demonstrate our absolute rejection of violent attitudes.

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

Thank you very much.
DECISION No. 1350
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT DOCUMENT
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

The Permanent Council,

Decides to request the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council the following document:

– Draft decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (MC.DD/13/19);

Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of the above-mentioned document.
DECISION No. 1351
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan until 31 December 2020.
DECISION No. 1352
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje until 31 December 2020.
DECISION No. 1353
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia until 31 December 2020.
DECISION No. 1354
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro until 31 December 2020.
DECISION No. 1355
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania until 31 December 2020.