

Chairmanship: Ukraine

977th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 12 December 2013

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 1.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Prokopchuk

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/2/13/Rev.2 OSCE+), Chairperson, Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1030/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/1014/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1042/13 OSCE+), Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Norway) (PC.DEL/1022/13), Albania (PC.DEL/1015/13 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1038/13 OSCE+), Moldova (PC.DEL/1040/13 OSCE+), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (PC.DEL/1025/13), Serbia (PC.DEL/1036/13), Croatia, Latvia

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON GENDER ISSUES

Chairperson, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues (CIO.GAL/175/13), Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1029/13), United States of America

(PC.DEL/1016/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1041/13 OSCE+), Switzerland (also on behalf of Serbia) (PC.DEL/1037/13 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1026/13), Canada (PC.DEL/1039/13 OSCE+), United Kingdom (Annex 1), Norway (PC.DEL/1021/13), Finland, Armenia

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Human Rights Day, celebrated on 10 December 2013*: Chairperson, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1044/13), United States of America (Annex 2), Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1031/13), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1020/13)
- (b) *Municipal elections in Kosovo, held on 3 November 2013 and 1 December 2013*: Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1032/13), United States of America (PC.DEL/1017/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1043/13 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/1024/13), Serbia (PC.DEL/1027/13 OSCE+)
- (c) *Recent events in Ukraine*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1018/13), Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1033/13), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1045/13), Canada (PC.DEL/1028/13 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1046/13 OSCE+), Belarus, Germany, Ukraine

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office*: Chairperson
- (b) *Fortieth meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 9 December 2013*: Chairperson
- (c) *Seminar on the History of OSCE Mediation Efforts in the Transdniestrian Settlement Process: Lessons Learned and Lessons to be Learned, to be held in Vienna on 16 December 2013*: Chairperson
- (d) *Conference on Christians in the OSCE region, the State of their Religious Freedoms, held in Rome on 29 November 2013*: Chairperson

- (e) *Twentieth OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, held in Kyiv on 5 and 6 December 2013: United States of America (PC.DEL/1035/13)*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the report of the Secretary General: Secretary General*
- (b) *OSCE facilitation of municipal elections in the northern Kosovo municipalities: Secretary General*
- (c) *Ongoing negotiations on the 2014 Unified Budget: Secretary General*
- (d) *White Ribbon Award presented to OSCE delegates for outstanding contributions to OSCE efforts in promoting gender equality in 2013: Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Draft annotated agenda of the first preparatory meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum 2014, to be held in Vienna on 28 January 2014: Switzerland (Annex 3)*
- (b) *European Court of Human Rights ruling on LGBT rights, on 12 December 2013: United States of America*
- (c) *Reception for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign, held in Vienna on 12 December 2013: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 19 December 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



977th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson,

I fully subscribe to the statement made on behalf of the European Union by the Ambassador of Lithuania, but I would like to add some comments in my national capacity, building also on a joint statement I gave on behalf of 13 participating States on women, peace and security during yesterday's FSC meeting.

As colleagues know, the challenge of eliminating violence against women is one that the United Kingdom takes extremely seriously. We continue to be a driving force behind UNSCR 1325 (2000) and related resolutions in the UN Security Council. And one of the top priorities for our international policy continues to be the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict, an initiative which our Foreign Secretary has promoted through the G8 and the UN General Assembly; among other outcomes, this work is reflected in the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) and the UN General Assembly declaration on preventing sexual violence, which was endorsed by 135 States. Following our re-election a month ago, this issue will also be one of our priorities for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

We expect that the OSCE at large and individual participating States will engage with relevant aspects of this work. The OSCE can play an important role, for example, by training delivered through the Strategic Police Matters Unit in support of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, and possibly by exploration of the links between sexual violence and human trafficking. There are opportunities for the field missions to become involved, and I commend the project being undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina on war crimes, including sexual violence, which provides training to the judiciary and a victim-support programme.

I would also like to inform colleagues of our plans for a Summit on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, to be held in London in June 2014. I hope that the OSCE and many participating States will be represented there.

As our Minister noted in Kyiv, we were disappointed by the difficulties in making progress on a draft OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security. Looking ahead to 2014, I reiterate my support for the co-sponsors of the Action Plan and urge all participating

States to join in this important work, for which I pay tribute to Turkey, Austria, Kazakhstan and Finland.

Mr. Chairperson,

Although the 2013 period of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is complete, the work does not stop here; indeed it is only beginning. There is much that we can and should do in this regard, and I pledge the commitment of the UK Delegation to Ms. Zeitlin, the relevant OSCE structures and our partners, in taking this topic forward in 2014.

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



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

PC.JOUR/977
12 December 2013
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

977th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

If you will allow me to make three quick points.

First, with respect to the statement of the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, some issues mentioned relate to serious questions that are of concern not only to people in this room but also to the citizens they represent, including the American people. Our democracy has a long track record of wrestling with tough issues – not always with perfection, and rarely as fast as we might like, but with resolve, credibility, and humanity. It is how we debate, discuss, and deal with our shortcomings, as much as how we demonstrate our strengths that earns the United States admiration and respect and propels our progress toward a more perfect union.

Second, I have noted with interest the Russian Federation's several recent statements – including by Foreign Minister Lavrov – about the importance of internationally recognized human rights, and the Russian Federation's concerns that there is so much work to be done. It is good to hear the reaffirmation of these universal obligations of States. And, as we celebrate Human Rights Week, it is a good time to look inward, as well as outward, to identify work remaining to be done.

Third, I pledge to the representatives here of the Russian Federation, and to all of those around this table, that when the United States raises specific cases of concern, we will always do so always motivated by sincere concern and in a genuine spirit. Our goal is to make a difference, not to score a point. And while we understand that statements may at times cause discomfort, that is not our purpose or intention.

Mr. Chairperson, the United States reserves the right to return to specific issues raised at a later date, and asks that this be reflected in the journal of the day.

PC.JOUR/977
12 December 2013
Annex 2
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

On International Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week

President Obama noted this week that six and a half decades ago, delegates from around the world convened to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rejecting the notion that individual aspirations should be subject to the whims of tyrants and empires, and affirming every person's right to liberty, equality and justice under the law.

Mr. Chairperson, we should use this opportunity and our work in the OSCE to honour Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week not only to celebrate these ideals, but also to advance them, along with all of commitments to human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

Humanity thrives because of our differences; the exchange of ideas among vibrant cultures is a source of innovation, beauty, and vitality. All women and men – across the participating States comprising this Organization and regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or income level – share the rights to freedoms of expression, religion, assembly, and association. We all have the right to take part in government, directly or through freely elected representatives. As individuals and societies, we have the right to choose our own destiny.

But in some corners of the OSCE space, people are still persecuted for their beliefs, imprisoned for their ideals and punished for their convictions. A growing number of countries are passing laws designed to stifle civil society – including organizations that promote universal human rights, support good governance, and bolster economic development. As President Obama said in his proclamation to honour this day, “Today and always, let us strive to break down prejudice, amplify the courageous voices that sound the call for change, and reaffirm our unwavering support for the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/977
12 December 2013
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

977th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 6(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Dear colleagues,

In preparation for the first preparatory meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum of our 2014 Chairmanship, we will be circulating a draft annotated agenda early next week to all delegations. By doing so, our intention is to give you and your capital enough time to consult before the meeting which will take place on 27 and 28 January next year here in Vienna.

As you know, the topic of our forum (adopted by the PC in its Decision No. 1088 of 15 July 2013) is “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area.”

The occurrence of natural disasters in every region of the world has increased dramatically in the last 50 years, often devastating the lives and livelihoods of great numbers of people. The aim of our discussions will be to develop a common view on the role of the OSCE in the whole disaster risk and crisis management cycle and on how to create synergies with other actors in the field while maintaining a focus on the security.

In an effort to ensure the most informed, animated and interactive level of discussion, Ambassador Greminger has written to each of you requesting that you contact your respective national “Hyogo Framework for Action” focal points to request their participation as part of each of your delegations to the Forum. These focal points are best placed to bring high quality discussion and to stimulate our thoughts on the role the OSCE can and should play in disaster risk reduction. As such I would kindly urge you to contact these experts and invite them, so as to add the expertise of each of our countries and to get the most from the discussions we will have here in January.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.