
Chairmanship: Serbia**1044th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 12 March 2015

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Suspended: 1.05 p.m.

Resumed: 3.50 p.m.

Closed: 5.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Žugić
Ambassador S. Milinković

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the OSCE, Monsignor J. Urbańczyk. The Permanent Representative of the Holy See delivered a statement to mark the assumption of his post.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, VICE-PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF BELGIUM, H.E. DIDIER REYNDERS

Chairperson, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium (PC.DEL/323/15), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, 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 Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/326/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/311/15), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/315/15), Turkey (PC.DEL/317/15 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/329/15 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/344/15), Bosnia and

Herzegovina (PC.DEL/306/15 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/324/15 OSCE+),
Moldova (PC.DEL/349/15), Ukraine, Switzerland (PC.DEL/341/15 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(ODIHR)

Chairperson, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR.GAL/16/15), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, 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 Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/327/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/313/15), Russian Federation, Canada (PC.DEL/332/15 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/318/15 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/339/15 OSCE+), United Kingdom (PC.DEL/309/15 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/345/15), Belarus (PC.DEL/342/15 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/325/15 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/343/15 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 3: 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. 1160 (PC.DEC/1160) 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.

Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF
REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1161 (PC.DEC/1161) on the extension of the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO
UKRAINE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1162 (PC.DEC/1162) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Norway (PC.DEL/346/15), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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) (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision)

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson, Germany

- (a) *Ongoing aggression against Ukraine and violations of OSCE principles and commitments by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/340/15 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/338/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/330/15), Turkey (PC.DEL/320/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/322/15), Switzerland (PC.DEL/319/15 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/348/15)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/316/15), Ukraine, United States of America
- (c) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/350/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, 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, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and

Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/333/15), Canada (PC.DEL/337/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/314/15), Russian Federation

- (d) *International Women's Day, observed on 8 March 2015*: Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, 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, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/334/15), Canada (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Norway and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/336/15 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/321/15), United Kingdom, Turkey
- (e) *Freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly in Tajikistan*: Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, 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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/331/15)
- (f) *Death penalty in the United States of America*: Norway (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/347/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/351/15), France

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

- (a) *Press release issued by the Chairperson-in-Office on 8 March 2015 on gender equality and the protection of human rights for sustainable peace and security*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/29/15)
- (b) *Press release issued by the Chairperson-in-Office on 10 March 2015 on co-operation to remove and destroy unexploded ordinance in south-east Ukraine*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/29/15)
- (c) *Visit of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Southern Caucasus to Moscow on 5 March 2015*: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/29/15)

Agenda item 8: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Extension of the vacancy notice for the post of Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana*: Director of the Office of Internal Oversight (SEC.GAL/50/15 OSCE+)
- (b) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/50/15 OSCE+)*: Director of the Office of Internal Oversight

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 19 March 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1160
12 March 2015

Original: ENGLISH

1044th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1044, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1160
EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO
TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER**

The Permanent Council,

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 30 June 2015;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/12/15. In this respect, authorizes the use of the 2014 year-end revision to fund the proposed budget of 256,700 euros for the duration of the present mandate.

**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 Latvia, 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 PC decision on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union and its Member States would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

We recall that when the decision was taken to deploy observers to the two checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border not under Ukrainian control at the time, we underlined that this was a limited first step. Since then Ukrainian authorities have been forced to give up additional checkpoints.

We continue to call for a significant expansion to all relevant checkpoints, as well as full access to monitor areas between checkpoints. This should be combined with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the SMM. We would like to reiterate that effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian border should be an integral part of a sustainable political solution based on the respect for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We reiterate that re-establishing full Ukrainian control over its State borders remains essential.

Border and ceasefire monitoring remain very closely interlinked. There is a need for an overall coherent approach to border monitoring and we reiterate our call on the Chairmanship to actively consult in order to address relevant issues related to monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border.

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

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, and the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of 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 the United States of America:

“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 the Russian Federation would not consider expanding the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite requests from other participating States that it do so. We once again have to accept a limited-scope mission, covering just two border checkpoints – which account for approximately one kilometre of the 2,300 kilometre border between Russia and Ukraine. We are concerned that due to Russia’s undue restrictions on its work, the Mission will be unable to ascertain the extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of illegal arms, funding, and personnel to support the separatists it backs in eastern Ukraine, or to gather sufficient information that could indicate in any meaningful way the extent to which Russia is taking any action to stop that flow of support to the separatists.

We note that Step 4 of the 5 September 2014, Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE in monitoring and verification on both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and the creation of a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and the OSCE approach to these activities must not be impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation has repeatedly prevented the expansion of this mandate to include other border checkpoints and monitoring between checkpoints and, in so doing, Russia raises serious questions about its commitment to implement critical elements of the Minsk Protocol.

Therefore, we call upon the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to continue discussions with the aim of expanding the Mission sufficiently to permit a true accounting of the situation all along the Russian-Ukrainian border. We also call upon the Russian Federation to provide, on an urgent basis, the proper protection, privileges, and immunities for the Observer Mission and observers operating on the Russian side of the border.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to 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 Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the PC 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.

Since establishment of this OSCE presence in accordance with the Berlin Joint Declaration of 2 July 2014, the security situation in the east of Ukraine has sharply deteriorated due to the activities of the terrorist organizations operating in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which receive reinforcements and armaments from the territory of the Russian Federation.

Deterioration of the situation and reports of this very limited OSCE presence at two Russian checkpoints have confirmed the need for expansion of the mandate to effectively address the existing grave challenges along the Ukrainian-Russian State border which was the primary concern of the meeting in Berlin. The mandate of the Mission should cover all sections of the border, adjacent to the terrorist-controlled areas of Donbas.

The Mission should also operate freely along the “green” border between the checkpoints to ensure comprehensive border monitoring; and should be able to conduct unannounced inspections.

Such meaningful monitoring is necessary until the SMM can effectively perform this function on the Ukrainian side of the border and control is resumed by Ukrainian border guards.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September which was also signed by representative of the Russian Federation envisages in paragraph 4 the OSCE permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification with the creation of security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Full implementation of paragraph 4 of the Minsk protocol is inextricably linked to accomplishing the objectives of establishing a sustainable ceasefire regime and ultimate

peaceful resolution in the east of Ukraine based on President Poroshenko's Peace Plan, the Minsk arrangements, the OSCE principles and commitments.

We therefore deeply regret that the Russian Federation has again refused to support the proposal for significantly expanding the currently limited mandate of the OSCE observers at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border. Such position of the Russian Federation puts into serious question its commitment to implementing agreed arrangements, its commitment to de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

We urge the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith, to allow for proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification by the OSCE.

We reiterate that resumption of efficient control at the Ukrainian-Russian border under the OSCE monitoring is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and recorded in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1160
12 March 2015
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:

“In joining the consensus on the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 30 June 2015, we take the position that they are deployed there at the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of 2 July 2014. The places of deployment and functions of the OSCE observers are clearly defined by the parameters of the team’s mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014. We regard the work of the team of OSCE observers as an important confidence-building measure.

The agreements reached in Minsk do not touch upon questions regarding the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine, which is reliably patrolled by the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. The decision to allow OSCE observers on our territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on our part.

As for the Ukrainian side of the border, Ukraine bears complete responsibility for its security and for reaching agreements with the forces that control the situation on the ground on the deployment of international observers there.

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



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

PC.DEC/1161
12 March 2015

Original: ENGLISH

1044th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1044, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1161
EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1024 of 15 December 2011 on the Terms of Reference of the OSCE Audit Committee,

Noting that the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee as contained in the Annex of the Decision No.1024 were effective until 31 December 2014,

Decides that these Terms of Reference will remain in effect until 31 December 2017.



1044th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1044, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1162
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 on the deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.DEC/1117),

Taking into account the request of the Government of Ukraine for the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (CIO.GAL/15/15/Corr.1),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine until 31 March 2016;
2. To approve the arrangements as well as the financial and human resources for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as contained in document PC.ACMF/13/15/Rev.1 for the period 21 March 2015 to 31 March 2016. In this respect, authorizes the assessment of EUR 65,000,000 on the basis of the field operation scale, at the time of billing, with the remaining balance being financed through voluntary contributions;
3. To task the Chief Monitor, as Fund Manager, to administer the Special Fund in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and to report to the ACMF on the implementation of the Special Fund on a quarterly basis;
4. To encourage the Fund Manager to take all necessary measures in order to improve efficiency and to achieve cost savings in the relevant components of the Special Fund;
5. That the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine may expand up to a total of 1000 civilian monitors, as necessary and according to the situation. The Chief Monitor will notify the Chairmanship, the Permanent Council and the host country of the concrete modalities, based on the needs on the ground.

**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:

“In connection with the decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 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 welcomes the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. In so doing, we reaffirm the interpretative statement we made on 21 March 2014, upon adoption of the mandate, and on 24 July 2014, upon the first extension of the mandate, under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure, and we note that those interpretative statements remain in force. We remind the Permanent Council of the key elements of those statements:

The United States reaffirms its firm commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We note that that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has a mandate to work throughout Ukraine, including in Crimea.

We note that all participating States must co-operate with the Special Monitoring Mission and should take no actions to obstruct its access to Crimea or any other region of Ukraine.

We offer our gratitude to all monitors, staff, and leadership of the Special Monitoring Mission for their excellent work under difficult and at times unacceptable conditions.

In addition to recalling those key elements of our previous interpretative statements, we would also like to use this opportunity to call on Ukraine, Russia, and the Russia-backed separatists to ensure that the SMM has unfettered movement throughout the territory of Ukraine and to guarantee the safety and security of SMM monitors as they carry out their duties.

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

PC.DEC/1162
12 March 2015
Attachment 2

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,

Canada wishes to make an interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Canada welcomes the adoption of this decision, and we thank the Serbian Chairmanship for its efforts in achieving this result.

In this context, we wish to reiterate our full support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. As per the mandate we have just extended, we expect that the OSCE SMM will be granted ‘safe and secure access throughout Ukraine’, as defined by the Constitution of Ukraine. Canada has not and will not recognize the illegal annexation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1162
12 March 2015
Attachment 3

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 connection with the Permanent Council decision adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) until 31 March 2016, we should like to make the following statement. We deeply regret that Ukraine with the support of the Permanent Representative of the United States of America effectively frustrated the adoption of the Permanent Council declaration proposed by the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) of 17 February 2015, which approved the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted and signed in Minsk on 12 February 2015, and also the Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, the President of Ukraine, the President of the French Republic and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in support of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted at the same time. We regret that these provisions have also not been reflected in the Permanent Council decision adopted today. Nor does it mention our call to provide the SMM with all the necessary technical resources, including satellite images, drones, radar equipment, etc., as stipulated in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements. We regard the amendments introduced by Ukraine as an attempt retroactively to rewrite the February agreements, which were supported by the leaders of the Normandy quartet countries, including by the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko.

We stress that if it is to fulfil its mandate the SMM should enjoy freedom of movement taking into account the requirements of ensuring the monitors' safety, and its capacities, including technical ones, should be strengthened. In the light of the agreements reached on 12 February in Minsk, when gathering information and compiling reports on the situation priority attention should be given to constant monitoring in the security zone in south-eastern Ukraine of the observance of the ceasefire regime and the withdrawal of heavy weapons. We stress that the SMM should monitor and report on the situation in other regions of Ukraine as well, and also carry out the entire range of tasks in accordance with its mandate.

In conclusion, we should like to recall that the geographical area of deployment and activities of the SMM is strictly limited by the parameters of its mandate, which reflects the political and legal realities existing since 21 March 2014 as a result of the fact that the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol have become an integral part of the Russian Federation.

I request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to 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 Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the PC decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 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.

Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the OSCE participating States for the positive response to the request of the Government of Ukraine to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission for the period of twelve months.

The Government of Ukraine regards the adoption of this decision as the practical response of this Organization to assist the country in countering the severe consequences of the aggression pursued by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in breach of imperative norms of international law, the Helsinki Final Act, bilateral and multilateral agreements, which guarantee Ukraine’s territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and non-intervention in internal affairs of Ukraine.

We see as critically important the role to be played by the OSCE and the SMM in the process of seeking a peaceful resolution in the east of Ukraine, based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Ukraine continues to strongly support the SMM in monitoring the implementation of all relevant provisions of the Minsk agreements.

In this connection we stress that the Minsk agreements include the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, the Minsk Memorandum of 19 September 2014 and the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements of 12 February 2015. These Minsk documents establish the agreed commitments undertaken by the same signatories, including members of the Trilateral Contact Group that represent Ukraine, the OSCE and the Russian Federation. They constitute the political framework for peaceful resolution in the east of Ukraine, must be treated equally, implemented fully and in good faith by all parties.

We regret that we are unable to adopt a Permanent Council Declaration in support of SMM in view of unconstructive position of the Russian Federation. The Russian delegation objected inclusion in the document of the call for full implementation of the Minsk agreements of September 2014 as expressed in the PC Declaration of 20 January 2015 which was adopted by consensus of all 57 OSCE participating States. In particular, it relates to implementation of the “Protocol upon results of consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group concerning joint steps, aimed at implementation of the Peace Plan of President of Ukraine P. Poroshenko and initiatives of President of Russia V. Putin” of 5 September 2014.

In view of the current developments in the eastern regions of Ukraine, we underline the importance of strengthening the capacities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, including with technical means, in order to ensure effective monitoring and verification of implementation of the Minsk arrangements, in particular those related to the ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and border monitoring.

The OSCE monitors must have full and unhindered access throughout Ukraine’s territory.

Ukraine affirms its interpretative statement appended to the Permanent Council Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 which remains in force. The mandate of the mission covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and recorded 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**

The delegation of Latvia, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“In response to the interpretative statement made by the Russian Federation, in connection with the PC decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the European Union and its Member States would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The EU welcomes the adoption of the decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We thank the Serbian Chairmanship for its efforts in facilitating its extension.

We reiterate our unwavering support to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We will not recognize the illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we reiterate that the SMM mandate covers the whole of Ukraine, including Crimea. We call on all sides to provide security and safety and unconditional access for SMM monitors, including to all parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and along the border with Russia.

The SMM has a vital role to play in the implementation of the Minsk Protocol, the Minsk Memorandum, and the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements as the only way forward towards a sustainable political solution based on the full respect for OSCE principles and commitments.

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

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

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