

Chairmanship: Serbia

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1080th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Wednesday, 2 December 2015 (Belgrade)

Opened: 10.30 p.m.

Closed: 10.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Žugić

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

Agenda item 1: **DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1193 (PC.DEC/1193) on the timetable of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Belarus and Kazakhstan) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Luxembourg-European Union (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 2: **REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES**

None

Agenda item 3: **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

4. Next meeting:
To be announced



1080th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1080, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 1193
TIMETABLE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(Belgrade, 3 and 4 December 2015)

The Permanent Council,

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

Adopts the attached timetable of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

I. Timetable

Thursday, 3 December 2015

9.15 a.m. Family photo

9.30 a.m. **Opening session (open)**

- Formal opening and adoption of the agenda
- Address by a representative of the host country
- 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 ministers and other heads of delegations

- 1.15 p.m. Working luncheon for the ministers for foreign affairs/heads of delegations
- Separate lunch for members of delegations
- 3–6 p.m. **Second plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by ministers and other heads of delegations
- 7.30 p.m. Reception for members of delegations and the press
- 8 p.m. Official dinner for ministers for foreign affairs/heads of delegations

Friday, 4 December 2015

- 10 a.m. **Third plenary session (closed)**
- Statements by ministers and other heads of delegations
 - Adoption of Ministerial Council decisions and documents
 - Any other business
- 2 p.m. **Closing session (open)**
- Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)
- 4 p.m. Press conference of the OSCE Troika ministers

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

While the United States welcomes this decision adopting the timetable for the Twenty-Second 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 should be invited and the modalities for their participation.

The OSCE Rules of Procedure have very specific rules for OSCE Ministerials, including ones on how international organizations are invited to participate. The relevant rule, IV.2(B)5, says: ‘For each meeting, the PC 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 a consensus on this issue, the Chairmanship-in-Office should employ the modalities agreed by consensus in the past.

The United States therefore expects that the same organizations will be invited to participate in the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council that were invited to the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, and that each will participate in the same way they did last year.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and also included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1193
2 December 2015
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 (also on behalf of Belarus and Kazakhstan):

“In joining the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, we are deeply disappointed at the fact that it proved impossible to approve a specific list of international organizations, institutions and initiatives, whose representatives will be invited to attend the meeting and make oral and/or written contributions, as provided for by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

We regard the refusal by a number of delegations to include the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in the list of international organizations, whose representatives are invited to address this OSCE Ministerial Council meeting alongside the United Nations, the Council of Europe and NATO as an attempt to preserve a discriminatory hierarchy among international organizations that does not reflect the changed realities. Such an approach merely serves to deepen the dividing lines in the OSCE area; dividing lines that the participating States have pledged to work together to eliminate.

As one of the major security organizations in the OSCE area, the CSTO is actively developing practical co-operation with the OSCE, including joint efforts to combat transnational threats and challenges. In that connection, we believe that the CSTO has all the necessary attributes to address OSCE Ministerial Council meetings, especially as unlike a number of other organizations, the CSTO Secretary General is attending this OSCE Ministerial Council meeting and is ready to provide his views on key issues on the security and co-operation agenda in Europe.

We take the position that, in the absence of a Permanent Council decision on the organizational modalities of the Ministerial Council meeting, statements by representatives of international organizations at the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be possible only in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, in other words through a consensus decision by the participating States.

I request that this statement be appended to the decision 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**

The delegation of Luxembourg, 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-Second 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.

While the European Union welcomes the decision adopting the timetable for the Twenty-Second 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, 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 European Union therefore expects that the same organizations will be invited to participate in the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council as were invited to the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, and that they will participate in the same way as last year.

We request that that this statement be attached to the decision we have just taken and also included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1193
2 December 2015
Attachment 4

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:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Second 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 not be reached on the modalities for the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, in particular on which organizations should be invited and on the modalities for their participation.

We note that consensus was achieved in previous years on sound modalities that respected the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

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.”