

Chairmanship: Austria

1141st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 6 April 2017

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Koja
Ambassador K. Kögeler

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Roksanda Ninčić.

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

Agenda item 1: 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/25/17 OSCE+), Malta-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 Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/497/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/489/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/474/17 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/487/17 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/478/17), Canada (PC.DEL/471/17 OSCE+), Norway, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/468/17 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/476/17), Georgia (PC.DEL/465/17 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/473/17 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/463/17 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/495/17), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OSCE
INFORMATION SECURITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1247 (PC.DEC/1247) on the establishment of the OSCE Information Security Enhancement Fund, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2017 OSCE
ASIAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1248 (PC.DEC/1248) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2017 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Germany

Agenda item 4: 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. 1249 (PC.DEC/1249) 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.

Malta-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 Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, 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 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Thirty-ninth round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 28 and 29 March 2017:* Malta-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 Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/499/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/481/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/490/17), Georgia (PC.DEL/466/17 OSCE+)

- (b) *International Roma Day, to be observed on 8 April 2017:* Malta-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/498/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/482/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/491/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/488/17 OSCE+)
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in Armenia, held on 2 April 2017:* Malta-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 Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/500/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/483/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/492/17), Armenia (PC.DEL/496/17)
- (d) *Proposed legislation affecting foreign educational institutions in Hungary:* United States of America (PC.DEL/484/17), Canada (PC.DEL/472/17 OSCE+), Hungary (PC.DEL/486/17 OSCE+)
- (e) *Reports of arrests and murders of homosexual men by the Chechen authorities:* United States of America (PC.DEL/485/17), Malta-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 Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/501/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/494/17 OSCE+), Ukraine, Chairperson
- (f) *Closure of the Library of Ukrainian Literature in the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/477/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/480/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/493/17 OSCE+), Malta-European Union

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

- (a) *Participation of the Deputy Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, H.E. Mr. M. Linhart, in the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in Vienna on 3 and 4 April 2017:* Chairperson

- (b) *Seventy-sixth meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 4 April 2017: Chairperson*
- (c) *Thirty-ninth round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 28 and 29 March 2017: Chairperson*
- (d) *Update on the selection processes for the positions of Secretary General of the OSCE and Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Chairperson*
- (e) *Deadline for the submission of nominations for the position of OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, 7 April 2017: Chairperson*
- (f) *Update on the consultations on the draft decisions on the mandates of the OSCE field operations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: Chairperson*
- (g) *Meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue, to be held on 7 April 2017: Chairperson*

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the OSCE Security Days event on “Creating inclusive, safe and sustainable cities: Local approaches to global challenges”, held on 30 and 31 March 2017 (SEC.GAL/61/17 OSCE+): Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre*
- (b) *Participation of the Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats in the Interregional Conference on Cyber/ICT Security, held in Seoul on 4 and 5 April 2017 (SEC.GAL/61/17 OSCE+): Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre*
- (c) *Delay in the adoption of Permanent Council decisions on the approval of the 2017 Unified Budget and on the mandates of the OSCE field operations in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (SEC.GAL/61/17 OSCE+): Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson*

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 27 April 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



1141st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1141, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1247
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OSCE INFORMATION SECURITY
ENHANCEMENT FUND**

The Permanent Council,

With the aim to strengthen the security of the OSCE's ICT systems and to enhance its defences against sophisticated information security threats,

Taking note of the document "Information Security Enhancement Fund" (PC.ACMF/7/17/Rev.1) on the proposed information security enhancements,

Decides to:

Establish a separate Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Information Security Enhancement Fund, for the financing of the strengthening of the OSCE information security. The Fund will cover an implementation period extending to 24 months, with the balance carried forward from one year to the next;

Allocate 800,000 euros from 2016 year-end revision to the newly established Fund;

Further decides that:

Any funds remaining available in the Fund at the time of completion of the activities will be treated in accordance with Financial Regulation 7.07;

Requests:

The Secretary General as Fund Manager to administer the Fund in accordance with Article VII of the Financial Regulations and to provide reports on the implementation of the Fund quarterly or more frequently if required;

The Secretary General as Fund Manager to ensure that the activities foreseen under this Fund are completed in the most cost-effective and timely manner.



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

PC.DEC/1248
6 April 2017

Original: ENGLISH

1141st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1141, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1248
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE 2017 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE**

(Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, 19 and 20 June 2017)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 1241 of 16 February 2017 on the dates and venue of the 2017 OSCE Asian Conference, to be held in the Federal Republic of Germany, on 19 and 20 June 2017,

Further to the discussion within the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Welcoming the offer by the Federal Republic of Germany to host the 2017 Conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to hold the 2017 OSCE Asian Conference on “Common challenges and common opportunities”;

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference as set out in the annex.

AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2017 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE ON COMMON CHALLENGES AND COMMON OPPORTUNITIES

Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, 19 and 20 June 2017

**Co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

I. Agenda

Monday, 19 June 2017

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8.30–9.15 a.m. | Registration of participants and welcome coffee |
| 9.15–10 a.m. | Opening remarks (open to the media) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Representative of the host country/Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Germany)– Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (Austria)– Secretary General of the OSCE |
| | Technical break (directly following the opening) |
| 10.15 a.m.–1 p.m. | Session 1: Confidence-building in times of geopolitical changes (high-level political segment)

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

This session will provide an opportunity to address common security challenges in the OSCE Asia-Pacific region.

Discussion
Conclusions and remarks by the moderator |
| 1–3 p.m. | Lunch |

3–5.15 p.m.

Session 2: Connectivity and regional economic co-operation

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Improving economic connectivity to enhance economic opportunities and to strengthen political confidence-building
- Identifying potential for (cross-border) connectivity, trade and economic co-operation
- Economic co-operation – the role of regional organizations

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

5.30–6.30 p.m.

Time slot for a possible side event

7.30 p.m.

Dinner reception

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

9–11 a.m.

Session 3: Regional contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals – the potential role of the OSCE and Asian Partners

Moderator: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Representative of an OSCE participating State or Asian Partner for Co-operation

This session will focus on:

- Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Goal 16)
- Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning (Goal 4)

	– Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls (Goal 5)
	Discussion Conclusions and remarks by the moderator
11.15 a.m.–12.15 p.m.	Closing session (open to the media) Concluding statement by a representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Concluding statement by a representative of the Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation
12.15 p.m.	End of Conference
12.30–1.15 p.m.	Lunch
Afternoon	Cultural programme (optional)

II. Participation

The OSCE participating States are invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE executive structures and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Council of Europe (CoE), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Representatives of the members of the ARF may attend as guests of the host country. Other countries and organizations may also be invited by the host country.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

III. Timetable and other organizational modalities

The Conference will begin at 9.15 a.m. (opening remarks) on 19 June 2017 and end at 12:15 p.m. on 20 June 2017.

Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council.

Rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

The opening remarks and closing session will be open to the media. The Conference will be held in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany. The working language will be English.



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

PC.DEC/1249
6 April 2017

Original: ENGLISH

1141st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1141, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1249
EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO
TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No.1130 of 24 July 2014 on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.DEC/1130),

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 31 July 2017;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/15/17. In this respect, authorizes the use of 301,100 euros from the 2014 and 2015 cash surpluses to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 31 July 2017.

**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 Malta, 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 decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union’s views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Russian-Ukrainian State border are well-known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of this border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments, which re-establishes full Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for permanent monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of Measures includes a commitment to reinstate full Ukrainian control over its entire international border.

The OSCE Observer Mission’s currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the Observer Mission to all border crossings on the Russia-Ukraine State border currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission and we reiterate the need for the SMM to be assured safe and unhindered access to all parts of the border currently not under Ukrainian Government control since border and ceasefire monitoring are very closely interlinked. Further we underline the need for sufficient equipment for the Observer Mission in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist an expansion of the Observer Mission.”

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 countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino 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 continues to block the expansion of the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States to do so. We once again must accept an inadequate, limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which together account for only a few hundred metres of the 2,300 kilometre Ukrainian-Russian border, much of which Ukraine does not control.

Due to Russia’s unwarranted restrictions of the border Observer Mission’s work, the Mission will continue to be unable to ascertain the full extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of arms, funding, and personnel to support the separatists in eastern Ukraine.

We note that Point 4 of the Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and to create a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is to the detriment of all efforts to resolve the conflict that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission shows, once again, that it refuses to fulfil its Minsk commitments.

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 Permanent Council 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.

The delegation of Ukraine persistently reiterates the importance of having a substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border adjacent to certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, all signatories including the Russian Federation undertook to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and its verification by the OSCE with the formation of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the conflict-affected areas of the Donbas region.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation continues to constantly object expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities. Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can only be attributed to its unchanged position on continuing fuelling the conflict in Ukraine’s Donbas, including by supplying heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring and financing terrorist acts in the territory of Ukraine. We emphasize that these actions by Russia constitute internationally wrongful acts, which entail the international responsibility of the Russian Federation. We reiterate our call on Russia to cease these acts, to offer appropriate assurances of their non-repetition, as well as to make full reparation for the injury caused thereby.

In this connection the delegation of Ukraine recalls that Russia has not responded to requests for explanations on the OSCE SMM reported presence in the certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of sophisticated modern Russian weapons and military equipment, including the jamming system R-330 'Zhitel', heavy flame-thrower system 'Buratino', portable flame-thrower 'Shmel', 'Grad P', UAV 'Orlan-10', used exclusively by the Russian armed forces.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith and to allow effective and comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with establishment of a security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1249
6 April 2017
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:

“The Russian Federation joined the consensus regarding 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 for three months (until 31 July 2017), regarding the work of this team as an additional voluntary confidence-building measure in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by the team’s mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014, which is based on the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 made in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine of 2 July 2014.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 does not mention the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. Nor is there any reference to this in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 and subsequently endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The decision to allow OSCE observers on Russian 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 Russia’s part.

With a view to granting privileges and immunities to the OSCE observers, Russia is willing to consider the possibility of their accreditation as diplomatic staff of embassies at the request of the seconding countries.

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