

**Chairmanship: Italy****1184th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 3 May 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 1 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.  
Closed: 6.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to the families of the victims of the attacks in Afghanistan on 30 April 2018. Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) thanked the Chairperson for his expression of sympathy.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY UNHCR ASSISTANT  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PROTECTION,  
H.E. VOLKER TÜRK

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY THE IOM SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISER  
FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA,  
MR. MANFRED PROFAZI

Chairperson, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (PC.DEL/522/18 OSCE+), IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia (PC.DEL/532/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/557/18), Norway

(PC.DEL/556/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/533/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/561/18 OSCE+), Turkey, United States of America (PC.DEL/534/18), Canada, Ukraine (PC.DEL/544/18), Georgia, Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/536/18 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Holy See (PC.DEL/535/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/546/18/Corr.1 OSCE+), Armenia, Morocco (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation)

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. 1291 (PC.DEC/1291) 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.

Bulgaria-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 Canada, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 4:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/549/18), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; 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/558/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/560/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/537/18), Turkey (PC.DEL/563/18 OSCE+), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/539/18), Ukraine
- (c) *Victory Day, to be celebrated on 9 May 2018:* Kazakhstan (also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/550/18 OSCE+)  
(PC.DEL/555/18 OSCE+), Armenia, Chairperson, Russian Federation

- (d) *World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on 3 May 2018*: Bulgaria-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; and the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/559/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/541/18) (PC.DEL/552/18), Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/562/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/540/18), Ukraine (PC.DEL/551/18), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, France (PC.DEL/542/18 OSCE+), Turkey, United Kingdom, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/548/18 OSCE+), Tajikistan
- (e) *The detention and persecution of Mr. A. Gaponenko in Latvia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/547/18), Latvia
- (f) *Educational reform in Ukraine*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/554/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/545/18), Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Agenda item 5:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Official inauguration of an exhibition on combating the international trafficking of cultural goods, to be held on 29 May 2018*: Chairperson
- (b) *Preparatory Committee Focused Discussion on the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/17 on enhancing OSCE efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, to be held on 7 May 2018*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/76/18 OSCE+)*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *OSCE Security Days expert roundtable on “Adding value on the ground: enhancing OSCE impact through field activities”, held on 27 April 2018*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/76/18 OSCE+)
- (c) *Note verbale regarding the policy of distributing documents (SEC.GAL/75/18 OSCE+)*: Armenia (PC.DEL/564/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation, to be held on 8 May 2018*  
(PC.INF/8/18 OSCE+): Finland (also on behalf of Switzerland and Turkey)  
(PC.DEL/543/18 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 10 May 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1291  
3 May 2018

Original: ENGLISH

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**1184th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1184, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1291  
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 30 September 2018;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/34/18 of 10 April 2018. In this respect, authorizes the use of 438,600 euros from 2016 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 30 September 2018.

**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 Bulgaria, 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.

We welcome the mandate extension by four months.”

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, San Marino and Canada align themselves with this statement.

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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 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 reiterates the importance of the comprehensive and permanent OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border in zones adjacent to the certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions which is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the international armed conflict started by Russia and taking place on the sovereign territory 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. This agreed measure has not yet been implemented.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation persists in opposing 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 expansion enjoys support of the OSCE participating States, except the Russian Federation. Opposition of Russia can only be attributed to its unchanged position on continuing fueling 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 numerous requests for explanations on the OSCE SMM reported presence in the occupied parts of Donbas of 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. Neither SMM nor OM at the Russian checkpoints 'Gukovo' and 'Donetsk' have verified the withdrawal of these sophisticated Russian weapons from the territory of Ukraine.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith and to allow proper 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 regions 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.”

**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, regrettably, and once again, that it refuses to fulfil its Minsk commitments.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1291  
3 May 2018  
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 latest 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 four months (until 30 September 2018), 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.

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