
Chairmanship: Italy**1210th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 20 December 2018

Opened: 9.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 6.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, H.E. MS. DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ

Chairperson, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (PC.DEL/1557/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; 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/1590/18), Norway (PC.DEL/1588/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1564/18), Turkey (PC.DEL/1608/18 OSCE+), Holy See, United States of America (PC.DEL/1567/18), Kazakhstan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1586/18), Georgia (PC.DEL/1597/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1581/18 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1602/18 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1614/18), Finland, Canada

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson, Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee (PC.DEL/1576/18 OSCE+), Austria-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 and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1591/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1565/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1604/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1611/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1566/18), Belarus (PC.DEL/1579/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1570/18 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Agenda item 3: REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON YOUTH AND SECURITY, MS. ANNA-KATHARINA DEININGER, MR. RICCARDO POZZI AND MR. MATTEO PUGLIESE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security (Ms. A.-K. Deininger) (CIO.GAL/186/18 OSCE+), Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security (Mr. M. Pugliese) (CIO.GAL/186/18 OSCE+), Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security (Mr. R. Pozzi) (CIO.GAL/186/18 OSCE+), Austria-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/1592/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1606/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1568/18), Turkey (PC.DEL/1609/18 OSCE+), Slovakia (PC.DEL/1610/18/Rev.1 OSCE+), Spain

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1319 (PC.DEC/1319) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Canada, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Canada, Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision)

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1320 (PC.DEC/1320) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1321 (PC.DEC/1321) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 7: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Once again about the military provocation in the Black Sea (continuation of consideration of the current issue “Ukrainian military provocation in the Black Sea”, initiated at the 1209th meeting of the Permanent Council):* Russian Federation, Austria-European Union

Chairperson

- (b) *Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and the illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1587/18), Austria-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1593/18), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1607/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1573/18), Canada
- (c) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1571/18), Ukraine, United States of America
- (d) *Forty-sixth round of the Geneva International Discussions, held on 11 and 12 December 2018:* Chairperson, Austria-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1595/18), United States of America, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1603/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1572/18), Georgia (PC.DEL/1598/18 OSCE+), Ukraine

- (e) *Violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and formation of the Kosovo Armed Forces by Pristina: Serbia (PC.DEL/1594/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1578/18), Cyprus (Annex 1), Moldova (PC.DEL/1575/18 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Spain, Greece (Annex 2)*
- (f) *Constitutional transition of the Kosovo Security Force and the promotion of regional security: United States of America (also on behalf of Canada), Albania (PC.DEL/1599/18 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1605/18 OSCE+), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden) (Annex 3), Russian Federation, Turkey, Serbia*

Agenda item 8: MOSCOW MECHANISM INVOKED BY
 16 PARTICIPATING STATES

Chairperson, OSCE Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism (PC.DEL/1583/18 OSCE+), France (also on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 4), Austria-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 Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1596/18), Ukraine (Annex 5), United States of America, Georgia (PC.DEL/1600/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex 6)

Agenda item 9: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

None

Agenda item 10: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the closing ceremony of the fifth OSCE live exercise to fight human trafficking along migration routes, held in Vicenza, Italy, on 14 December 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/199/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/199/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Participation of the Director of the Office of the Secretary General and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in the Chairmanship Conference marking the 2018 International Migrants Day, held on 18 December 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/199/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/199/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Round of OSCE-NATO staff talks held on 18 December 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/199/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/199/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*

Point of order: United States of America, Russian Federation, Chairperson

Agenda item 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Awarding of the OSCE Medal to H.E. Ms. Dunja Mijatović*: Secretary General, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- (b) *Farewell statement by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship*: Chairperson, Slovakia
- (c) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the OSCE, Ambassador A. Kirakossian*: Chairperson, Dean of the Permanent Council (Liechtenstein), Armenia
- (d) *Adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/128 on “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” on 12 December 2018*: Uzbekistan (PC.DEL/1612/18), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1577/18), Belarus (PC.DEL/1580/18 OSCE+), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/1613/18 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/1210
20 December 2018
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 7(e)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS

Mr. Chairperson,

On the current issue raised by the delegation of Serbia, I would like to state the following:

The Republic of Cyprus does not recognize the 2008 Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo and abides by UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Cyprus expresses its serious concern and regret regarding legislation adopted by Pristina on 14 December 2018, aiming to initiate substantial changes to the mandate, role and capacity of the Kosovo Security Forces.

This move runs contrary to UN Security Council resolution 1244 which provides the sole legal framework for the international security presence in Kosovo. It entails serious risks of destabilization of the wider Western Balkan region.

We call on Pristina to take those steps necessary to lower tensions and create the conditions that would allow for the resumption of the EU facilitated dialogue.

Mr. Chairperson,

I take this opportunity to reiterate our strong support to the dialogue as the only means to achieve full normalization of relations between the parties.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1210
20 December 2018
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 7(e)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

Mr. Chairperson,

Greece follows with concern the developments over the last months in Kosovo, including the recent adoption of the legislation about the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Our position regarding Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence remains unaltered.

Being especially interested in maintaining and promoting security, stability and prosperity in the region, Greece expresses its strong concern about decisions and actions that, as it has been repeatedly highlighted by the European institutions, are inconsistent with the undertaken commitments.

Greece continues to support the European perspective of the countries of the Western Balkans, according to the set conditionality, and calls for the immediate implementation of the commitments undertaken in the context of the Brussels Dialogue, revocation of the decisions and avoidance of statements and actions that burden the bilateral relations, whose normalization is our shared goal.



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

PC.JOUR/1210
20 December 2018
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 7(f)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BELGIUM, CROATIA, DENMARK, ESTONIA,
FRANCE, FINLAND, GERMANY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, THE
NETHERLANDS, POLAND AND SWEDEN)**

I make this statement on behalf of the following States: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

We recall the statement made by the European Union members of the UN Security Council in New York on 17 December which underlined that a comprehensive and legally binding normalization agreement is crucial so that Serbia and Kosovo can advance on their respective European paths.

The initiation of the process of transition of the Kosovo Security Force is Kosovo's sovereign right. We have taken note of Kosovo's commitment to gradually transform its security force, in close co-ordination with NATO and its partners. At the Security Council, the EU Security Council members called on the Kosovo authorities to make the transformation of the Kosovo Security Force in the next ten years a transparent and inclusive process, associating all communities and to avoid any detrimental impact to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. They also stressed the need to maintain the existing arrangements with KFOR regarding the deployment of the Kosovo Security Force in the north of the country.

Almost two decades after the adoption of resolution 1244 and ten years after Kosovo's declaration of independence, Belgrade and Pristina still have to agree on many aspects of their future relationship within the framework of a comprehensive normalization agreement. We call on both sides to take steps to exercise restraint and to lower the tensions and create the conditions to resume as soon as possible their dialogue as facilitated by the EU High Representative. A binding agreement addressing all issues should remain the key priority.

I ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1210
20 December 2018
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, ESTONIA,
FINLAND, GERMANY, ICELAND, IRELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following participating States: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

We welcome the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur, Mr. Wolfgang Benedek, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his meticulous and professional work in preparing the report in accordance with our invocation of the Moscow Mechanism concerning alleged human rights violations and abuses committed with impunity in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

We also welcome this opportunity for the Permanent Council to discuss this important item, in accordance with the provisions in the Moscow Document of 1991.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the Astana Summit in 2010, the participating States reaffirmed “categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.”

In this spirit, over the past two years we have raised our concerns about serious human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya in the Permanent Council and Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. We have repeatedly called on the Russian Federation to conduct effective and thorough investigations into these credible reports, and we have invited the Russian Federation to inform the Permanent Council of the status of their investigations, including by providing answers to specific questions raised under the Vienna (human dimension) mechanism.

We regret that, over the past two years, the Russian Federation failed to provide a substantive response.

In this context, we underline that we consider the Moscow Mechanism a useful OSCE tool to provide an unbiased and factual basis for further dialogue and action. We recall that the Moscow Mechanism is an instrument established by consensus and in good faith by all participating States to help us implement our shared commitments in the human dimension.

We therefore deeply regret that the Russian Federation has, so far, decided not to co-operate in this endeavour. The Russian Federation did not grant the necessary assistance to or access for Mr. Benedek to meet with relevant Russian authorities in the course of his investigation. This is contrary to the spirit of the Moscow Mechanism. We believe that it would have been in the common interest of all stakeholders to co-operate with the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur in the preparation of the report.

Nevertheless, Mr. Benedek has fulfilled the challenging task in a professional manner and has produced a comprehensive, well-substantiated, and objective report on the questions raised.

The report concluded that the evidence clearly confirms the allegations of very serious human rights violations and abuses in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, “in particular allegations of harassment and persecution, arbitrary or unlawful arrests or detentions, torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions”. The victims include, but are not limited to, LGBTI persons, human right defenders, lawyers, independent media and civil society organizations.

Furthermore, the report found that “there is a climate of impunity, which is detrimental to any accountability for human rights violations”. The report also notes that the Russian authorities responsible for investigating crimes in Chechnya “appear not to have lived up to their responsibilities” in addressing the situation in Chechnya, which is “treated like a special case, and area of exception [...] where a special regime of impunity is tolerated for the sake of stability.”

We welcome the comprehensive list of specific recommendations in the report that both the Russian Federation, including the Chechen Republic, and other participating States can use moving forward.

We urge the Russian Federation to heed the recommendations and work with relevant international institutions – including with the OSCE, its executive structures and participating States – to address the issues raised in a constructive manner. For example, we draw attention to the recommendation to the Russian Federation to “make sure that all Chechen authorities, including law enforcement and security agencies, fully comply with Russia’s domestic legislation and international human rights obligations.”

We also want to highlight the recommendation to the Russian Federation to open “an inquiry into the actions of the government of the Chechen Republic towards LGBTI persons in general, as well as a criminal case on the alleged violations of the human rights of Maxim Lapunov in particular”.

Moreover, we concur with the recommendations on establishing “a special investigative committee, comprised of experienced federal prosecutors and police investigators in order to undertake an effective, impartial and transparent investigation of the allegations”, noting that “in the absence of such an effective investigation by the Russian Federation, an independent investigation should take place with international experts”. We believe that these recommendations are relevant in regards to both the violations and abuses against LGBTI persons and others as well the alleged extrajudicial executions of the 27 men by Chechen security forces in January 2017 in Grozny. We further call on the Russian Federation to immediately release the Director of the Memorial Human Rights Centre in Chechnya, Mr. Oyub Titiev, on bail in accordance with the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur’s recommendation.

We would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the individuals and civil society organizations who work tirelessly to defend our human rights commitments and to hold governments accountable for their actions, including in the Russian Federation. They deserve our recognition, support, protection and deepest respect. As recommended by the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur, we will continue, “to support the civil society, NGOs, Human Rights Defenders and journalists, who work towards the full implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments in the Chechen Republic”. We also urge the Russian Federation to “make sure that human rights defenders and their organisations and the media can work without harassment” in the Chechen Republic, in accordance with the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur’s recommendation.

In closing, we would like to underline that we consider the submission of this report an important contribution for further dialogue and action with the aim of ensuring that the Russian Federation, along with all of us, respect and uphold our shared OSCE commitments. We value the OSCE as a platform for dialogue. As such, we will also continue to raise our concerns in a co-operative manner, equally expecting a substantive response from the Russian Federation.

I ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day. Thank you.



1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine is grateful to Mr. Wolfgang Benedek for being today in the Permanent Council and for his meticulous work in preparation of the report under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, invoked by a group of the OSCE participating States with regard to grave violations of human rights in a specific constituent entity of the Russian Federation. All OSCE participating States have recognized the Moscow Mechanism to be a significant inter-governmental instrument for follow-up in the human dimension and in this connection we deeply regret the unwillingness of the Russian Federation to co-operate with the duly appointed rapporteur.

We thank Mr. Benedek for preparing a thorough report, within the mandate and according to prescribed timelines, which established facts in relation to information earlier treated as allegations. The document contains facts and testimonies that confirm the grim human rights realities in the Russian Federation marked by extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary and unlawful arrests and detentions, harassment and torture of citizens, including LGBTI persons.

Many times the questions about grave crimes and abuses, identified in the report, were raised in the OSCE and put directly to the Russian Federation by numerous delegations, including of Ukraine, from early 2017. Some of the crimes, referred to in the report, such as the attack on the Joint Mobile Group of journalists and human rights activists from some OSCE participating States on 9 March 2016 at the administrative boarder of Chechnya and Ingushetia or the murder of Memorial's regional representative in Chechnya and journalist Natalia Estemirova on 15 July 2009, have been on the OSCE agenda for years. None of the questions and requests for investigation and bringing the responsible to account received a meaningful response from the Russian delegation.

The total impunity of the perpetrators has led and continues to lead to further breakdown of the system of protection of basic human rights in the Russian Federation, among them the right to life. It is appalling that in the twenty-first century extrajudicial executions are practiced by the governmental security forces in Russia, people disappear without trace or get locked up and tortured in secret prisons run by security forces. What we witness is not only impunity, but also a developed vertical system of cover-up which

effectively condones the perpetration of those heinous crimes by the governmental authorities.

We must be aware that many of the crimes and abuses, that were recorded in Chechnya, can also be found in other regions across Russia. In particular, the report's finding that "the use of electric shocks is a constant pattern which anybody picked up by the police has to expect" is characteristic of police practices in other parts of the country.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE participating States have committed themselves "categorically and irrevocably that ... the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned".

The report's findings confirm the major allegations of reported human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya and identify that there is a problem of total impunity of the security forces.

This is an established case of clear, gross and uncorrected violation of commitments by the Russian Federation in the human dimension. The purpose of this meeting must be focused on effective follow-up to these findings.

In view of the gravity of established human rights violations, the climate of impunity regarding these violations and the failure of the Russian authorities to ensure proper investigation and accountability, the delegation of Ukraine considers imperative the establishment of a respective international mechanism of investigation. We request the OSCE Secretariat together with the ODIHR to present recommendations in this regard as soon as possible. In the meantime, it is essential for the OSCE ODIHR, as the focal point, to transmit the report to the OSCE partner organizations in the field of human rights, particularly the United Nations and the Council of Europe, as well as to have it discussed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its earliest meeting in order to provide an urgent response to the findings.

We ask the incoming Slovak OSCE Chairmanship to attach full attention to the practical follow-up to today's Permanent Council discussion and submitted recommendations as well as to inform the participating States on progress.

The delegation of Ukraine requests the Chairperson that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1210
20 December 2018
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the report by Professor Wolfgang Benedek under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism.

First of all, we emphasize that the sharp critical tone of the review and the biased conclusions contained in it, which are based on information from dubious sources, bear witness to a deliberate and primordial politicization of this topic. It is significant that during the preparation of the report the main emphasis was placed on certain “testimonies” by anti-Russian non-governmental organizations and individual members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe known for their political bias. All this suggests that the document was deliberately tailored to the specifications of those who commissioned it.

We also note that despite our repeated requests for clarification, we have still not received a list of names of the supposed 27 victims of so-called extrajudicial executions or a statement outlining the specific circumstances of what is alleged to have happened to them. No documentary and trustworthy information has been provided, except for information from a few purported “witnesses”. In our opinion, this is comparable to previous attempts to palm us off with some newspaper cuttings instead of official data.

We note that the statements by the author of the report on the “case of Oyub Titiev” may constitute an attempt to exert pressure on the Russian judicial authorities, undermining the principle of the independence of the judiciary. The assignment of certain “LGBT rights” to a special category is not in keeping with the norms of international law, not to mention the commitments adopted within the OSCE.

We once again emphasize the counter-productive nature of the use of key OSCE human rights mechanisms to inflame accusatory rhetoric and encourage collective attacks and deliberate politicization of the discussion. We consider such a dishonest attitude to the human rights instruments of our Organization and their misuse for opportunistic purposes to be unacceptable. A vivid example of this is the fact that those who invoked the “Vienna mechanism” have not found the time to respond to our request for clarification under that mechanism. So without providing the necessary information, they jumped straight to the

Moscow Mechanism. Evidently, the task was to put a spin on the issue so as to make unsubstantiated accusations against Russia beyond the bounds of professional objectivity and the desire to understand what happened.

We also consider the statement by the delegation of the United States of America on the report presented today, already published on 18 December on Twitter as “breaking news”, to be in bad faith. We regard this as a violation of the principle of confidentiality, since the tweet in fact reveals the content of the report. This directly contravenes paragraph 11 of the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, according to which: “The report will remain confidential until after that meeting of the Committee.”

Furthermore, the current realities of the work of our Organization have by and large made these mechanisms redundant. The Current Issues item on the agenda of the Permanent Council, not to mention the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, have long been used for the regular exchange of human rights information between participating States. The Russian Federation has always responded in good faith and will continue to respond to the relevant concerns, provided, of course, that they are aimed at constructive and mutually respectful dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.DEC/1319
20 December 2018

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1319
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE**

The Permanent Council,

Referring to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine until 30 June 2019.

PC.DEC/1319
20 December 2018
Attachment 1

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 regarding the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the Russian Federation takes the position that the geographical area of activity of the office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator will fully reflect the political and legal realities existing since 21 March 2014 as a result of the fact that the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol are integral parts of the territory of the Russian Federation. Consequently, the Co-ordinator’s activities, including project activities, do not apply to these constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included as an attachment 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**

The delegation of Austria, 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 on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

The European Union stresses that the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine covers the whole territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day as well as to the decision in question.”

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Canada, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra 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.

PC.DEC/1319
20 December 2018
Attachment 3

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 the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision for the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in 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 notes that Crimea remains an integral and internationally recognized part of Ukraine despite Russia’s ongoing occupation and attempted annexation. The mandate of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine applies to the entire country of Ukraine, including Crimea.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1319
20 December 2018
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 Turkey:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Turkey reiterates that the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine covers the entire territory of Ukraine, including Crimea, which Turkey continues to regard as part of Ukraine.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day as well as to the decision in question.

Thank you.”

**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 mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in 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.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which are an integral part of Ukraine, were illegally occupied and subjected to attempted annexation by the Russian Federation in violation of the OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders are safeguarded by the Constitution and legislation of Ukraine and norms of international law. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders was reconfirmed by the UN General Assembly resolutions 68/262 ‘Territorial integrity of Ukraine’ of 27 March 2014, 71/205 ‘Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)’ of 19 December 2016, 72/190 ‘Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine’ of 19 December 2017 and by the updated draft resolution ‘Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine’ adopted by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly at its 73rd session on 15 November 2018.

Ukraine stresses that the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine extends to 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 this decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

PC.DEC/1320
20 December 2018

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1320
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek until
31 December 2019.



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

PC.DEC/1321
20 December 2018

Original: ENGLISH

1210th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1210, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 1321
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe until
31 December 2019.