

**THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL****OPENING SESSION (OPEN)**

1. Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025

Opened: 10.10 a.m.  
Closed: 10.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland,  
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

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

Agenda item 1: **FORMAL OPENING**

The Chairperson formally opened the Thirty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Agenda item 2: **WELCOME REMARKS BY THE FEDERAL MINISTER  
FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF  
THE HOST COUNTRY**

H.E. Ms. Beate Meinl-Reisinger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria, addressed the Meeting.

Agenda item 3: **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Chairperson

The agenda for the Thirty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council was adopted and is annexed hereto (Annex 1).

Agenda item 4: **ADDRESS BY THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE**

H.E. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, addressed the Meeting (MC.DEL/2/25 OSCE+).

Agenda item 5: **ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

H.E. Mr. Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, addressed the Meeting.

Agenda item 6: **REPORT BY THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**

H.E. Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, Secretary General of the OSCE, addressed the Meeting (MC.GAL/19/25).

4. **Next meeting:**

Thursday, 4 December 2025, at 10.50 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

## FIRST PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025  
Opened: 10.50 a.m.  
Closed: 1.10 p.m.
2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland,  
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE  
Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen (Finland)  
Ms. Mari Neuvonen (Finland)
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

### Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Chairperson, Ukraine (MC.DEL/51/25), Norway, Denmark-European Union (MC.DEL/29/25) (MC.DEL/39/25), Uzbekistan, Czechia (MC.DEL/23/25 OSCE+), Georgia (MC.DEL/65/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom (MC.DEL/19/25 OSCE+), Türkiye (MC.DEL/64/25 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (MC.DEL/61/25 OSCE+), Germany (MC.DEL/13/25 OSCE+), Holy See (MC.DEL/1/25), Albania (MC.DEL/54/25 OSCE+), Switzerland (MC.DEL/3/25 OSCE+), Poland (MC.DEL/27/25 OSCE+), Netherlands (MC.DEL/17/25), Serbia, France (MC.DEL/43/25 OSCE+), Bulgaria (MC.DEL/32/25 OSCE+), Luxembourg, Austria (MC.DEL/72/25), Hungary (MC.DEL/55/25 OSCE+), Monaco (MC.DEL/4/25 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (MC.DEL/5/25 OSCE+), Armenia (MC.DEL/34/25)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 4 December 2025, at 3 p.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

## SECOND PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025  
Opened: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 6.05 p.m.
2. Chairperson: H.E. Dr. Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta  
Ms. Deborah Borg (Malta)  
Ms. Elizabeth Abela Hampel (Malta)
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:  
Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)  
Kazakhstan (MC.DEL/35/25 OSCE+), Malta, North Macedonia (MC.DEL/18/25 OSCE+), Ireland (MC.DEL/11/25), Slovakia (MC.DEL/70/25 OSCE+), Andorra (MC.DEL/22/25 OSCE+), Montenegro, Romania (MC.DEL/73/25 OSCE+), Cyprus (MC.DEL/40/25 OSCE+), Greece (MC.DEL/63/25 OSCE+), Liechtenstein (MC.DEL/6/25), Slovenia (MC.DEL/53/25 OSCE+), San Marino (MC.DEL/7/25 OSCE+), Tajikistan (MC.DEL/12/25 OSCE+), Estonia (MC.DEL/31/25 OSCE+), Italy (MC.DEL/14/25 OSCE+), Canada (MC.DEL/74/25), Lithuania (MC.DEL/33/25 OSCE+), Russian Federation (MC.DEL/10/25), Belarus (MC.DEL/8/25/Corr.1 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Croatia (MC.DEL/59/25 OSCE+), Spain (MC.DEL/15/25/Rev.1 OSCE+), Portugal (MC.DEL/67/25 OSCE+), Moldova, Latvia (MC.DEL/58/25 OSCE+), Sweden (MC.DEL/69/25 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan (MC.DEL/68/25 OSCE+), United States of America (MC.DEL/56/25), Iceland (MC.DEL/47/25 OSCE+), Belgium (MC.DEL/9/25 OSCE+), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/71/25)
4. Next meeting:  
Friday, 5 December 2025, at 10 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 5 December 2025  
  
Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 11 a.m.
2. Chairperson: Ambassador Raphael Nägeli (Switzerland)
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:  
  
Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)  
  
Mongolia, Algeria (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/44/25 OSCE+), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/16/25 OSCE+), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/20/25 OSCE+), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/21/25/Rev.1 OSCE+), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/57/25 OSCE+)
4. Next meeting:  
  
Friday, 5 December 2025, at 11 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CONTINUED) (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 5 December 2025

Resumed: 11 a.m.

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen (Finland)

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

Agenda item 8: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS

Chairperson

As announced by the preceding Chairperson-in-Office (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta), in a letter issued on 30 December 2024 (PC.JOUR/1505, Annex), Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/24 on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026 was adopted through a silence procedure (see MC.DEC/7/24, the text of which is appended to this journal).

The Chairperson announced that Decision No. 1/25 (MC.DEC/1/25) on the closure of the OSCE Minsk Process, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, and the High-Level Planning Group, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 1 September 2025 through a silence procedure.

Agenda item 9: CLOSING STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING STATES

Denmark (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) (Annex 2), Sweden (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) (MC.DEL/26/25 OSCE+), Russian Federation (MC.DEL/24/25), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (Annex 3), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (also on behalf of Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Albania, Armenia, Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland,

Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand (Partner for Co-operation), Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan) (MC.DEL/36/25), Romania (also on behalf of Moldova and Ukraine) (Annex 4), Belgium (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) (MC.DEL/60/25 OSCE+), Denmark (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) (MC.DEL/37/25 OSCE+), Luxembourg (also on behalf of Belgium, the Netherlands and Ukraine) (MC.DEL/41/25 OSCE+), France (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) (Annex 5), Iceland (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Ukraine) (MC.DEL/46/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom (MC.DEL/48/25 OSCE+), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine) (MC.DEL/50/25 OSCE+), Norway (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) (MC.DEL/66/25 OSCE+), Belarus (MC.DEL/49/25 OSCE+), Belarus (also on behalf of the Russian Federation) (Annex 6), Estonia (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) (Annex 7), Serbia (Annex 8), Türkiye, Azerbaijan (Annex 9), Finland (also on behalf of Malta and Switzerland) (Annex 10)

Agenda item 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 5 December 2025, at 12.50 p.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

## **CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)**

1. Date: Friday, 5 December 2025

Opened: 12.50 p.m.

Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen (Finland)

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

Agenda item 11: **FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)**

Finland, Switzerland (MC.DEL/38/25 OSCE+), Chairperson

The Chairperson formally declared the Thirty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

3 and 4 December 2026, to be held in Lugano, Switzerland



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Vienna 2025**

MC(32).JOUR  
4–5 December 2025  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**First day of the Thirty-Second Meeting**  
MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 3

**AGENDA FOR  
THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Vienna, 4 and 5 December 2025)

1. Formal opening by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
2. Welcome remarks by the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the host country
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
5. Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
6. Report by the OSCE Secretary General
7. Statements by heads of delegations
8. Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
9. Closing statements by participating States
10. Any other business
11. Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting****MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK (ALSO ON BEHALF OF  
AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECHIA,  
ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, IRELAND,  
ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA,  
THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,  
SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN AND SWEDEN)**

Thank you, Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the following European Union Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The European Union expresses its gratitude to the Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, for her leadership in steering our Organization in challenging times. We also pay tribute to Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen and his entire team in Vienna for their tireless efforts in strengthening our Organization and maintaining its relevance. We also thank our host country, Austria, for the warm hospitality extended to all of us these days and for the overall support provided to the OSCE.

The 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, commemorated this year in Helsinki, Vienna, and many of our capitals, has reaffirmed its enduring relevance. The Helsinki principles and the concept of comprehensive security remain valid and vital to our common security. We reiterate that core principles – sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and each State's right to freely choose its own security arrangements – are shared obligations that are neither negotiable nor subject to reinterpretation. We welcome the overwhelming support expressed for the Helsinki principles during this Ministerial Council meeting.

We meet in Vienna at a critical moment for European and global security. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine is a flagrant violation of international law and OSCE principles and commitments, and continues to inflict immense suffering, civilian casualties and destruction. The European Union remains steadfast in the commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, grounded in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We reaffirm our continued and unwavering support

for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We also strongly support all efforts to preserve the Organization's continued engagement in and support to Ukraine. The OSCE leadership, executive structures and autonomous institutions must continue the Organization's assistance to Ukraine. We call for accountability for all international crimes and human rights violations and abuses, in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The OSCE, through the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and human dimension mechanisms, can continue to bring its valuable contribution. We remain deeply concerned about the fate of the Ukrainian children deported to Russia or forcibly transferred within temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories. We welcome, therefore, the side event focused on the efforts to ensure their safe return to Ukraine, co-sponsored by the European Union and all European Union Member States.

We stand in solidarity with Moldova, facing serious repercussions of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as a neighbouring country. The European Union remains committed to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Moldova, and reaffirms its determination to support the Republic of Moldova in defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with its constitution.

As many participating States have reaffirmed, the OSCE remains indispensable in promoting peace and stability across the region, as well as in supporting participating States in addressing a broad spectrum of risks and challenges that extend beyond military risks, such as cybersecurity, foreign information manipulation and interference, democratic backsliding, restrictions on civil society and independent media, and the security implications of climate change.

We commend the Civic Solidarity Platform for organizing its Parallel Civil Society Conference and value its contribution to the Ministerial Council through the Vienna Declaration. We reiterate the crucial role of civil society organizations and human rights defenders in promoting accountability and sustaining vibrant democracies.

The challenges in the OSCE area extend beyond its borders. It is therefore important to strengthen our partnerships with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners. The European Union has joined our Asian Partners in reaffirming that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is interconnected.

The European Union supports efforts aimed at strengthening the OSCE's efficiency and functionality, as well as safeguarding its achievements, along with the collectively agreed principles and commitments on which it is built.

We use this opportunity to restate our unwavering support for the work and mandates of the OSCE field missions and autonomous institutions – the ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We emphasize that it is our shared responsibility to preserve their strong mandates, and guarantee their effective functioning and adequate budgets. We have supported Finland's efforts for the adoption of a Unified Budget for 2025 and we regret that consensus could not be reached. We call on all participating States to uphold the commitments they have made and provide the

OSCE with adequate resources, enabling it to function effectively across its three dimensions and all its structures.

We also call upon all participating States to recognize the importance of providing the OSCE with continuity of its leadership. We look forward to progress on the appointment of the 2027 Chairmanship and express our full support to Cyprus' bid to lead the Organization.

We welcome the Finnish Chairmanship's focus on youth, peace and security, culminating in the OSCE-wide Road Map for Strengthening OSCE Efforts on Youth, Peace and Security just launched during the Ministerial Council meeting. The European Union and all its European Union Member States have joined other participating States in acknowledging youth as important partners in peace and security.

Thanking again our Finnish colleagues, we look forward to working closely with the 2026 Chairmanship, Switzerland.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's Ministerial Council meeting.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting  
MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN,  
KYRGYZSTAN, SERBIA, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN,  
AND UZBEKISTAN)**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Emphasizing the enduring significance for all humankind of the victory over Nazism in the Second World War and recalling in this regard that the year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory,

Recognizing the importance of the outcome of the victory over Nazism in 1945 and of the judgments of the Nuremberg Tribunal intended to prevent a repetition of past mistakes and save the world from the scourge of war,

Noting with concern the spread of various extremist movements and ideologies of a racist and xenophobic nature, including neo-Nazism, which is not limited merely to the glorification of a movement that existed in the past, but represents a contemporary phenomenon whose adherents advocate ideas of national or racial superiority,

Drawing on the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 17 December 2024 entitled “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”,

Reaffirm our commitment to efforts aimed at preventing the revision or distortion of the outcome of the Second World War and the downplaying of the contribution of the peoples of the Soviet Union and of the liberation movements of European countries to the defeat of Nazism;

Express our intention to resolutely suppress activities aimed at glorifying the Nazi movement, rehabilitating former members of the Waffen-SS and their accomplices and denying the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by them;

Are convinced of the importance of work with young people, above all in the information space, with a view to preventing the spread of the ideology of neo-Nazism and militant nationalism;

Consider it necessary to make use of all OSCE capabilities to combat the dissemination of ideas of racial superiority and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance;

Call upon the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and the heads of the OSCE executive structures to give a proper assessment of manifestations of neo-Nazism and the glorification and rehabilitation of the Nazis and their accomplices;

Propose to consolidate international efforts aimed at preserving the historical memory of the Second World War and countering any manifestations of neo-Nazism.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting****MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA (ALSO ON BEHALF OF  
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE)**

In the context of the debates of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting held in Vienna on 4 and 5 December 2025, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine reaffirm their unwavering adherence to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and to the principles and commitments of the OSCE.

Amidst Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and the constant hybrid actions undertaken by Moscow in Moldova and Romania, as well as across Europe, we reaffirm our strong commitment to continue pursuing measures aimed at consolidating security and resilience in our region and beyond.

We reiterate our unwavering support to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters.

While Russia conducts combined strikes against Ukraine, its drone attacks also increasingly affect the security of other States, including through repeated violations of the airspace of Moldova and Romania. In this context, close co-ordination within bilateral and multilateral formats, including the “Odesa Triangle”, remains a cornerstone of our joint efforts. Russia also increased its violations of Allied airspace, in response to which NATO launched “Eastern Sentry” and is strengthening Allied capabilities on the Eastern flank.

Our three countries will continue to deepen practical co-operation aimed at strengthening resilience in the region and beyond. We will further enhance co-ordination in countering hybrid threats from the Russian Federation, including disinformation and foreign information manipulation, cyberattacks and energy threats, and attempts to destabilize our societies through political or economic pressure. In light of Russia’s intensified malicious activity in the digital space, we consider it important to advance our dialogue on the establishment of a trilateral cyber alliance.

Energy remains a key pillar of our co-operation. We will continue working together to strengthen the region’s energy security, reduce vulnerabilities to external pressure, and counter Russia’s ongoing weaponization of energy. By enhancing interconnectivity, improving resilience of energy systems, diversification of sources and ensuring stable and

reliable supply routes, we aim to build a secure regional energy space resistant to any attempts at coercion or disruption.

Our countries will also continue close co-operation to prevent the circumvention of sanctions imposed on Russia. Ensuring that no covert channels, opaque ownership structures or any other schemes are used to undermine sanctions regimes is essential to our national and European security.

We underline the importance of expanding cross-border transport infrastructure as a strategic priority for our three countries. Ukraine welcomes the continued support of Romania and Moldova for the “solidarity lanes” initiative. Given Russia’s ongoing attacks on Ukraine’s port infrastructure, it remains essential to further increase the capacity of transport corridors from Ukraine through Moldova and Romania in order to maintain the flow of goods, secure vital export routes, restore safety and freedom of navigation, and further strengthen regional co-operation among like-minded States.

We highlight the importance of the election of our three countries to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, which reflects our shared commitment to strengthening co-operation in education, science, culture and communication.

We remain firmly committed to advancing our European and Euro-Atlantic integration, reinforcing the Black Sea region as a space of peace, security and prosperity, and upholding the effectiveness and credibility of the OSCE as an important regional security organization.

In this spirit, we call on all OSCE participating States and institutions to support the Chairmanship-in-Office and the host country, Moldova, in ensuring the full, uninterrupted and effective functioning of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, in strict accordance with existing procedures and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova. Noting that the relevant OSCE Istanbul Summit 1999 commitments remain unfulfilled, we urge the Russian Federation to fully, unconditionally withdraw all military forces, ammunition and equipment stationed on the territory of Moldova.

United in purpose and united in action, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine will continue to stand together against Russia’s aggression and to work jointly to protect their citizens.

Moldova, Romania and Ukraine request that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

I thank you.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting  
MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM,  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CYPRUS,  
CZECHIA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, GREECE,  
ICELAND, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG,  
MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS,  
NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SAN MARINO,  
SLOVENIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM)**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear Ministers,  
Ambassadors and delegates,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following participating States that are members of the Informal Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and my own country, France.

The following countries have aligned themselves with this statement: Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Media freedom is an essential element of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. A free, independent and pluralistic media environment strengthens democratic governance, promotes transparency and accountability and contributes to war prevention, societal resilience and the enjoyment of all human rights. The ability of journalists and media actors to operate without undue interference, censorship, intimidation or violence is fundamental to safeguarding the public's right to seek, receive and impart information, as enshrined in the OSCE participating States' commitments.

The participating States have repeatedly affirmed these obligations in key OSCE documents, including the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 on the safety of journalists, which underscore the vital role of free and independent media in fostering open societies and upholding the rule of law. These commitments require States to ensure legal and practical conditions that protect freedom of expression, promote media pluralism, improve the safety of journalists, end impunity for crimes against journalists and prevent the misuse of legislation or the judicial system to silence dissenting voices or restrict independent reporting.

It is with deep regret that we observe a stark contrast between the commitment of certain participating States to end impunity for crimes against journalists and actual practice. Rather than investigating and prosecuting those who assault, threaten or kill journalists, we are witnessing an increasing number of cases in various participating States where the judicial and penal systems are turned against journalists themselves, while attacks against them go unpunished. Journalism has turned into a high-risk profession, and we must not allow this situation to be normalized and deteriorate even further. Even in the face of legitimate national security concerns, legal instruments should under no circumstances be misused to suppress independent media and to persecute journalists and other media actors.

Among the serious consequences of Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine is the deterioration of the situation with regard to the media in the context of the war. Since the beginning of the war, a significant number of journalists have been killed or subjected to arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearance by the Russian aggressor. Credible reports indicate that media infrastructure and media workers have become direct targets. Intentional attacks against civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks, may constitute flagrant violations of international humanitarian law or even war crimes. Under international humanitarian law, journalists must be protected (as civilians). We call upon the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally release all media professionals imprisoned for their professional activities, including in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

In Russia itself and in Belarus, the situation is also alarming. Media actors face a repressive environment where media freedom no longer exists. Numerous journalists have been harassed, attacked and imprisoned for their professional activities on politically motivated charges. The Russian and Belarusian authorities have expanded and misused so-called anti-extremism and anti-terrorism laws to punish those who legitimately exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. State-sponsored disinformation, censorship and foreign information manipulation and interference have a profound effect on media freedom. The systematic and ongoing repression of independent media in Russia and Belarus has severely curtailed all forms of independent journalism.

Journalists have been arrested, prosecuted and convicted in a number of other countries, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. In Turkmenistan, the space for independent journalism is very limited. In Georgia, once a regional leader in media freedom, the authorities have taken to undermining independent journalism through harassment, intimidation, legislation and judicial action, as well as through the arbitrary detention of media actors.

We remain deeply concerned about the erosion of media freedom in other parts of the OSCE area. We are seeing increasing violence and hostility towards the media in public spaces, a lack of adequate response from security officials and an unwillingness on the part of police forces to protect journalists and media actors. In some instances, it seems that media professionals have even been attacked by law enforcement officials, with reports of deliberate physical assaults, harassment, seizure and destruction of professional equipment and even arbitrary detention.

In this context, the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media takes on its true meaning: to serve as an early warning mechanism, to respond quickly in cases of serious non-compliance with OSCE commitments on media freedom, and to assist States in improving media laws and practices.

We commend the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in promoting the safety of women journalists. Last week marked the tenth anniversary of the Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO) project. We welcome this project as an important activity of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. By addressing the threat of gender-based online violence faced by women in the media, this project has contributed to a safer and more inclusive online environment for women journalists through the SOFJO Resource Guide, the Guidelines for monitoring online violence against female journalists, and a specific capacity-building programme tailored to the needs of various stakeholders.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,  
Dear Ministers,  
Ambassadors and delegates,

Freedom of the media, including the safety of journalists, is not only essential for States to uphold their human rights obligations, but also a cornerstone of sustainable security and stability throughout the OSCE area. We urge participating States to fully implement their commitments, strengthen institutional safeguards for independent journalism and support the efforts of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in this regard.

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

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting  
MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9****STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS (ALSO ON BEHALF OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

The Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation,

Express their commitment to the fundamental principles of the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area, as enshrined in the OSCE Ministerial Council document “From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control”;

Believe in the inviolability of the fundamental elements of this dialogue mechanism, including the sovereign equality of participating States, the non-discriminatory format of work involving all 57 participating States, and the principle of adopting decisions by consensus in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE;

Reaffirm their commitment to the principles proposed by the Chairpersons of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue between 2017 and 2021, which should guide the Group’s work:

- Transparency;
- Collective ownership and the responsibility of participating States to advance the Dialogue;
- Inclusiveness and the involvement of all participating States in the Dialogue;
- Constructiveness and respect for the differences in opinions, priorities and concerns of all participating States.

These principles can only be applied if the Structured Dialogue is open to all 57 participating States.

In view of the consultations being held under the Norwegian Chairmanship in the framework of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue, we consider the diversion of the format’s work to so-called small groups to be a mistake. In accordance with

the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, all informal working groups are open-ended bodies, and all their activities must be open to all participating States without exception. Continuing a policy of fragmenting the Structured Dialogue risks deepening the existing divisions and destroying the remnants of collegial work within the OSCE.

We do not deny the importance of informal exchanges of views on Structured Dialogue issues and of maintaining channels of communication that help to reduce risks and build mutual understanding. At the same time, we are convinced that any serious, results-oriented discussion on the politico-military aspects of security is only possible in a format involving all 57 participating States and must be based on the following principles:

- Commitment to the development of equal and mutually beneficial inter-State relations;
- The absence of an alternative to the principle of equal and indivisible security whereby no State, group of States or organization may strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others;
- Compliance with international law based on the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and interrelatedness;
- The unacceptability of sanction restrictions, dividing lines and double standards;
- The establishment of a de-ideologized pragmatic dialogue to discuss current challenges and the joint search for balanced solutions;
- The elimination of the root causes of the crisis in the OSCE area and the fundamental differences in the field of security, and the development of mutually acceptable mechanisms for maintaining the sustainability of a future model of peaceful coexistence on the basis of the mutual consideration of interests.

We call upon the Chairmanship of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue to refrain from discriminatory practices that contravene the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and to bring this platform back to a professional, mutually respectful and depoliticized dialogue based on the principle of inclusiveness, with a view to overcoming the divisions within the OSCE.

This statement is open for alignment by other OSCE participating States.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting**

MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ESTONIA (ALSO ON BEHALF OF  
DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, NORWAY  
AND SWEDEN)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following participating States: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Estonia.

Over the past year, the democratic backsliding in Georgia has intensified dramatically and it is with great concern that we have witnessed the Georgian authorities continue to take steps away from their international commitments, including those undertaken at the OSCE.

These include: excessive use of force against individuals exercising their freedom of expression and assembly, accompanied by a persistent failure by the Georgian authorities to investigate allegations of violence and hold those responsible to account; growing repression of citizens, civil society actors, independent media and journalists, including the enactment of sweeping legislative initiatives that have increased administrative detention periods, imposed fines for peaceful protest activities and introduced new and vaguely defined criminal provisions penalizing actions such as “insulting” officials; as well as the targeting of political opposition, including legal initiatives aimed at banning political parties and imprisoning opposition leaders.

Further, we regret that an invitation by the Georgian authorities to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for election observation of the recent local elections was issued less than a month before election day, leaving insufficient time to ensure credible and meaningful observation, and thereby depriving the Georgian people of an impartial, transparent and comprehensive assessment.

Mr. Chairperson,

As OSCE participating States, we have committed to upholding and defending fundamental human rights, democracy and the rule of law across our region. As agreed in the 1991 Moscow Document, third-dimension commitments are matters of direct and legitimate

concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.

It is within this spirit that we, as part of a wider group of States, have sought to engage in dialogue with the Georgian authorities and encourage a return to the path of respect for human rights and democratic norms and values, in line with our shared OSCE commitments. It is with regret that we note that these efforts have so far proved futile. On the contrary, we have seen the Georgian authorities' pushback against the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for observing a peaceful demonstration during a visit intended to facilitate dialogue with all actors in Georgia and reiterate the OSCE institutions' readiness to support Georgia in the implementation of its commitments on fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

Nevertheless, we will continue to press for meaningful and inclusive dialogue within Georgia and for tangible steps towards upholding our OSCE principles and commitments, including by demanding an end to politically motivated prosecutions and the release of opposition leaders and others detained on such grounds. We will continue to call on the Georgian authorities to refrain from acts that would further shut down the democratic space, and we stress the need to uphold the independence of the judiciary and to ensure the right to a fair trial. And, we will continue to explore, together with like-minded participating States, appropriate OSCE avenues to ensure that human rights violations are objectively documented and addressed.

We call on the Georgian authorities to engage with the OSCE executive structures in good faith and to take full advantage of the support they offer, in order to implement Georgia's international commitments, including those undertaken at the OSCE, in a comprehensive and non-selective manner.

Finally, we reiterate our solidarity with the Georgian people and their pursuit of a democratic, peaceful and European future.

Thank you.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting****MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9****STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Serbia takes the floor to exercise its right of reply in relation to the remarks made earlier in the “Joint statement on human rights and fundamental freedoms”, pertaining to our country.

The Republic of Serbia reaffirms its firm commitment to the protection and promotion of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals, in full accordance with democratic principles, the rule of law and our international obligations. The Government continues to engage in open and constructive dialogue with journalists, civil society organizations and academic institutions, while advancing measures to strengthen transparency, pluralism and the independence of institutions.

All citizens enjoy the right to peacefully assemble and express their views, whether supportive or critical of the Government. However, no democratic society can condone acts of violence presented under the guise of protest, nor disregard deliberate attempts to disrupt public order or undermine institutional stability. Interventions by the competent authorities were undertaken strictly within the bounds of the law and for the sole purpose of safeguarding public safety. Despite police actions being limited and restrained, targeting only those who damaged property or assaulted officers, more than 170 police officers have been injured.

The delegation of Serbia encourages all OSCE participating States to engage on the basis of verified facts, constructive dialogue and mutual respect. We remain open to continued co-operation with national and international partners in further strengthening democratic institutions and promoting human rights. In line with Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights recommendations, we continue to improve the overall media framework and select Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM) members transparently.

In this context, we caution against unsubstantiated interpretations or narratives that may diminish the efforts and progress that Serbia continues to achieve. The OSCE should not become a platform for unobjective or politically motivated intrusions into the domestic matters of participating States.

Dear colleagues,

Our goal remains clear: the preservation of democracy, the rule of law and the return to a peaceful social cycle. That is why we continue to call for dialogue with all stakeholders, including representatives of the protesters. Serbia aspires to remain a place where political differences are resolved within institutions, not on the streets, where freedom and security are equally protected, and where the future of all citizens rests on stability and the respect of democratic values.

We kindly ask this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting****MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9****STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

In view of the claims made by Denmark and France concerning my country, in the statements delivered on behalf of a group of States, I would like to exercise the right of reply:

First of all, freedom of the media in Azerbaijan is guaranteed in the framework of the Constitution and the relevant national legislation. More than 5,000 online and printed media outlets operate freely in the country.

No journalist or media representative is being imprisoned for performing their professional duties in Azerbaijan. Legal proceedings are undertaken strictly in response to violation of national legislation not related to media, in full compliance with due process and the rule of law.

Furthermore, thousands of non-governmental organizations function openly and independently, benefiting, among others, from various government support mechanisms that facilitate their activities.

We recall challenges and problems for civil society and media in the countries on whose behalf the statements have been made. We do not wish to go into the details of those issues, as they are well known. But they underscore that discussions on these matters must be approached with balance and self-reflection and without double standards.

Therefore, we invite these States to devote greater attention to the concerns related to media freedom and civil society within their own jurisdictions.

We are ready to engage in constructive discussions on the implementation of human dimension commitments in all participating States.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

**Second day of the Thirty-Second Meeting****MC(32) Journal, Agenda item 9**

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF MALTA AND SWITZERLAND)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

On 3 December, the OSCE Troika ministers made the following statement on the Helsinki+50 discussions on the future of the OSCE.

Throughout 2025, Finland, supported by the OSCE Troika, has conducted the Helsinki+50 discussions on the future of the OSCE, engaging all participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE executive structures, the Parliamentary Assembly, and civil society representatives. These discussions have been held in a challenging context, which continues to be marked by Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, a grave and unprecedented violation of the OSCE's principles.

The aim of the Helsinki+50 discussions has been to ensure that the OSCE continues to deliver on its core mandates, firmly anchored in the Helsinki principles. At the same time, the Helsinki+50 discussions have provided a useful avenue for discussing OSCE reform.

The OSCE Troika echoes the main conclusions from the Helsinki+50 discussions:

- The Helsinki principles and the concept of comprehensive security remain valid and vital to our common security. They must continue to guide the OSCE and future discussions on European security;
- The OSCE continues to serve as a valued forum for inclusive dialogue. Accountability for violations of principles and commitments remains a fundamental task. States should continue to explore new formats for respectful, substantive dialogue, building on the Finnish Chairmanship's experiences this year;
- To remain effective and relevant, the OSCE needs to modernize. A swift adoption of a budget is essential for any modernization efforts to succeed. Many proposed functionality improvements do not require consensus. Measures could include medium-term strategic plans by the executive structures, as well as making full use of the Helsinki+50 Fund to support strategic management of extrabudgetary funds;

- Discussions on reforms requiring consensus should continue. States should continue working towards more ambitious reforms in line with the Helsinki+50 conclusions. These may include decoupling the post table from the budget, as well as agreeing on biannual budget allotments and more sustainable fallback options in the absence of a budget. A system of rotating Chairmanships may also be considered.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the current challenging circumstances, the OSCE Troika will continue to focus on the future of our Organization beyond 2025 with the ambition to achieve tangible results by the next Ministerial Council meeting in 2026.

During the Helsinki+50 discussions, participating States called for more prioritization by the executive structures, focusing on the areas where the OSCE delivers unique value. The OSCE Troika stands ready to support these efforts, in close consultation with participating States and executive structures.

The principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act – including respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity, the non-use of force, and respect for human rights – remain the foundation of our common security and form the basis for all our efforts.

Together, we share the responsibility to ensure that the OSCE is fully equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next 50 years.

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

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**DECISION No. 7/24  
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2026**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026.

MC.DEC/7/24  
30 December 2024  
Attachment

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:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026, the Russian Federation notes the following.

Our assumption is that, as holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Swiss Confederation will make a meaningful effort to salvage the Organization’s ability to perform, and to restore a culture of professional, dialogue-oriented inter-State co-operation.

We expect Switzerland to adhere closely to the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, as set out in the Porto Ministerial Council decision of 2002, and avert the recurrence of the shameful practice of previous Chairmanships with regard to introducing confrontationally worded topics for discussion at official events. We trust that the future Chairmanship will actively hold consultations with all participating States on the preparation of key events in the OSCE’s annual cycle, guarantee equal and unhindered access to these events for everyone without exception, and not allow programmatic work to be skewed altogether towards certain issues.

Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 – which stipulates that the OSCE’s leadership must act in the public eye exclusively in accordance with approaches agreed upon by consensus – remains a categorical imperative in the work of the Chairmanship-in-Office. No violations indulged in by previous Chairmanships may be used as a precedent or justification for any further deviations from that rule.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted Ministerial Council decision and included in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.”

**DECISION No. 1/25**  
**CLOSURE OF THE OSCE MINSK PROCESS,**  
**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE**  
**CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON THE CONFLICT DEALT**  
**WITH BY THE OSCE MINSK CONFERENCE AND THE**  
**HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the joint letter of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan contained in documents SEC.DEL/315/25 and SEC.DEL/316/25,

Acknowledging that the OSCE Minsk Process, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and the High-Level Planning Group are no longer relevant in view of cardinal changes in the situation that once called for their establishment,

1. Declares the conclusions of the First Additional Meeting of the CSCE Council held in Helsinki on 24 March 1992 on the establishment of a Conference under the auspices of the CSCE (OSCE) which was supposed to take place in Minsk and all provisions reflected in subsequent OSCE decisions and documents deriving from this decision as invalid and not applicable;
2. Decides to close the OSCE Minsk Process, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and the High-Level Planning Group;
3. Approves the financial resources contained in the document CIO.GAL/102/25 reflecting the financial implications of the closure of the mentioned structures;
4. Tasks the OSCE Secretariat to implement the activities contained in document CIO.GAL/102/25, and report the completion of all the required procedures to the Permanent Council.

MC.DEC/1/25  
1 September 2025  
Attachment

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 Armenia:

“In connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the closure of the OSCE Minsk Process, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and the High-Level Planning Group, the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia, together with Azerbaijan, initiated the adoption of this decision based on the Joint Appeal by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office signed in Washington, D.C. on 8 August 2025.

On the same day, the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan initialled the agreed upon text of the Agreement on Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The initialization was witnessed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the United States of America, who also signed the Joint Declaration.

The Joint Declaration acknowledged the ‘need to chart a course for a bright future not bound by the conflict of the past, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the 1991 Almaty Declaration.’ It affirmed that the conditions have been created ‘to finally embark on building good neighbourly relations on the basis of the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory after the conflict that brought immense human suffering.’ It further stated that this ‘reality, which is not and should never be subject to revision, paves the way for closing the chapter of enmity between our two nations.’

In this environment the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan jointly appealed to close the Minsk Process structures of the OSCE, since they ‘are no longer relevant in view of cardinal changes in the situation that called for their establishment.’ The Ministers also confirmed their ‘shared commitment to the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act to continue the normalization process at the bilateral level.’

In the context of this historic momentum the Republic of Armenia looks forward to the timely signing and ratification of the Peace Agreement.

Thank you.”