
Chairmanship: Switzerland**1561st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026 (in the Ratsaal)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Nägeli
Mr. N. Plattner

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/380/26), Cyprus (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/370/26 OSCE+), France (Annex 2), Canada (PC.DEL/386/26), Türkiye, Norway, Netherlands (also on behalf of Belgium, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Romania and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/371/26 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Germany (Annex 3), Czechia (PC.DEL/358/26 OSCE+), Belarus, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/355/26)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Chairperson, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM.GAL/2/26/Rev.1) (FOM.GAL/2/26/Add.1/Rev.1), Cyprus-European Union (with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein,

Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/372/26), United States of America, United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/356/26/Rev.1), Norway (PC.DEL/378/26), Albania (PC.DEL/375/26 OSCE+), Finland, Belarus (PC.DEL/367/26 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/365/26 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/385/26 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/389/26), Armenia (PC.DEL/366/26), Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/374/26 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/388/26 OSCE+), Montenegro, Cyprus, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/384/26 OSCE+), Malta (PC.DEL/357/26 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/383/26 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/387/26 OSCE+), Netherlands (also on behalf of Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/381/26 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Holy See (PC.DEL/359/26 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Ongoing attempts by some participating States to undermine efforts at finding a long-term and sustainable peaceful solution to the Ukrainian crisis: Russian Federation* (PC.DEL/361/26)
- (b) *40th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster: Ukraine* (PC.DEL/382/26), United Kingdom, Belarus (PC.DEL/368/26 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/373/26), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/363/26)
- (c) *Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of the Soviet People, perpetrated by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, observed on 19 April 2026: Russian Federation* (PC.DEL/362/26), Belarus (PC.DEL/369/26 OSCE+), Germany (PC.DEL/376/26 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Participation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Ignazio Cassis, in the Fifth Antalya Diplomacy Forum, held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 17 to 19 April 2026: Chairperson*
- (b) *Participation of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Ms. E. Dağdelen Akgün, and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Promotion of Dialogue and Confidence-Building, Mr. S. Rumin, in the Fifth Antalya Diplomacy Forum, held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 17 to 19 April 2026: Chairperson*
- (c) *Visit of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process, Mr. T. Lenk, to Bucharest on 21 and 22 April 2026: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/50/26 OSCE+)*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Fifth Antalya Diplomacy Forum, held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 17 to 19 April 2026*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General, Türkiye
- (c) *2026 Forum of the OSCE Secretary General and Central Asian Border Commanders, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 20 and 21 April 2026*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (d) *Video message of the Secretary General at the opening of the 26th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, entitled “The Rise of Forced Criminality: Addressing a Security Blind Spot”, held in Vienna and online on 20 and 21 April 2026*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (e) *Visit of Secretary General to Astana on 22 and 23 April 2026*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 30 April 2026, at 10 a.m., in the Ratsaal



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

PC.JOUR/1561
23 April 2026
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1561st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1561, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

It is disappointing that the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office, bending to the political climate, continues to include a confrontational item on “Russian aggression against Ukraine” in the Permanent Council’s agenda.

Such actions by the Chairmanship are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)). This precludes the possibility of equal and non-discriminatory participation in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE as regards consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1561
23 April 2026
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

1561st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1561, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

France aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of 26 Member States of the European Union, and I should like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

As I announced last week, I wish to exercise my right of reply following the allegations, and above all the threats, made against my country, France, by the Ambassador of Russia during the Permanent Council meeting on 16 April.

France, I would remind you, supports all efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Our position is clear: Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has attacked a neighbouring sovereign State, in defiance of all the rules of international law. The Ukrainian army and people are exercising their right to self-defence to protect their country's territorial integrity. France is not a party to this conflict, contrary to what the Russian delegation is trying to imply.

As part of its policy of providing assistance to Ukraine, France has taken the decision to supply Ukraine with a certain amount of military equipment. These deliveries are intended to enable Ukraine to respond proportionately to the aggression against it, and to restore its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

The supply of arms to a State does not in any way constitute grounds for co-belligerence; international law is clear on this point. The President of the Republic has repeatedly and unequivocally stated that we are in no way at war with the Russian people. I repeat, France is not at war and harbours no hostile intentions towards Russia or any other nation. Our stance is exclusively defensive, and it will remain so. It is therefore unacceptable that the Russian delegation should continue, at the Permanent Council, to put forward arguments that are as flimsy as they are misleading, claiming that Russia is under threat from France, Europe and NATO. This tactic and the resulting threats against Europeans and the allies are unacceptable.

Mr. Chairperson, by supporting Ukraine, we are defending international law, the right of States to sovereignty and independence, their right to freely choose their alliances and security arrangements, and the inviolability of frontiers, in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. We are also defending our security and economic stability.

The OSCE provides a platform for dialogue and de-escalation. Using this diplomatic forum to issue threats and justify in advance potential new acts of aggression is more than dangerous: it is irresponsible.

Lastly, allow me to clarify a few points regarding the case of Adrien Bocquet, who was mentioned by the Ambassador of Russia last week. He failed to mention that this Franco-Russian national was placed on the EU sanctions list on 16 March. Why? This individual “has been involved in recruiting foreigners to fight in Ukraine, has defended war crimes and has conducted disinformation campaigns in Europe and Africa”, as stated by Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.

Once again, I should like to point out that the gross manipulation of facts, in order to shift on to others the responsibility that in reality lies with Russia, constitutes a dangerous escalation in the context of the war of aggression that has been going on for more than four years. In a forum such as ours, even the most basic communication – let alone dialogue – is only possible if arguments are backed up by verified facts. Let us leave the rest to the propaganda machine.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1561
23 April 2026
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1561st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1561, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Germany aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of Member States of the European Union. Allow me to make the following additional comments in a national capacity.

I should like to refer to Russia's repeated disinformation and threats, through which it is attempting to spread concern and fear within our societies. The latest statements coming from Moscow, in which the co-ordinates of targets in Germany and other countries are openly mentioned, and, even more seriously, the reiteration of this threat by the Russian delegation at this forum, are a further attack on the fundamental principles of international law and of the Helsinki Final Act. They constitute an unprecedented escalation.

Our position is crystal clear: we are not going to be intimidated and will resolutely defend our sovereignty and the security of our citizens. Such threats are completely unacceptable.

The Federal Government therefore summoned the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Berlin on 20 April and demanded that Russia immediately distance itself from such threats.

As Federal Chancellor Merz once again emphasized quite clearly last week: Germany will not let up in its financial, political and military support for Ukraine. On the contrary: at the German-Ukrainian intergovernmental consultations on 14 April, we agreed to upgrade our bilateral relations to a strategic partnership. Together with our many partners, we will continue to provide Ukraine with consistent support in exercising its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Our common goal is to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, including robust, credible and legally binding security guarantees for Ukraine.

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

Thank you for your attention.