PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026

Original: ENGLISH

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

Chairmanship: Switzerland

1585th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 12 November 2026 (in the Ratsaal)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 3.55 p.m.

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

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to Poland in connection with the tragic mass shooting that occurred in Kraków on 7 November 2026. Poland thanked the Chairperson and the Council for their expression of sympathy.

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Y. Kosherbayev, to the Permanent Council.

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/1160/26), United Kingdom, Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1150/26), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1157/26 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1167/26), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1133/26), United States of America

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1535 (PC.DEC/1535) on the timetable of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1536 (PC.DEC/1536) on the forwarding of a draft agenda to the Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE 2026 REVISED BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1537 (PC.DEC/1537) on the 2026 revised budget for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Serbia (Annex 2), Ireland (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Belarus

Agenda item 5: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova (PC.FR/13/26 OSCE+), United States of America (also on behalf of Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/1156/26), United States of America (PC.DEL/1154/26), Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1151/26), United Kingdom, Türkiye (PC.DEL/1158/26 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1161/26), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1139/26 OSCE+), France (also on behalf of

Germany and Poland) (Annex 3), Estonia (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) (PC.DEL/1163/26 OSCE+), Romania (PC.DEL/1132/26 OSCE+), Moldova (Annex 4)

Agenda item 6: ADDRESS BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Civil Society (CIO.GAL/100/26 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1152/26), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1134/26 OSCE+), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Montenegro, the Netherlands and Sweden), Türkiye, Georgia (PC.DEL/1181/26 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1148/26), Montenegro, Armenia (PC.DEL/1146/26), Finland, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Belarus

Agenda item 7: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *The ongoing hybrid war waged by NATO and the European Union against Russia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1135/26)

(b) *Situation regarding the three OSCE officials illegally detained by Russia as part of its war of aggression against Ukraine*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1162/26), Canada (PC.DEL/1168/26), Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1153/26), Germany (also on behalf of France and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/1138/26 OSCE+), France, Norway (PC.DEL/1149/26), Denmark (PC.DEL/1144/26), Moldova, Netherlands, Czechia, Greece (PC.DEL/1155/26 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1137/26 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/17/26 OSCE+), Director of the Office of the Secretary General (Annex 5)

Agenda item 8: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

(a) *Visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. I. Cassis, to Belgrade, Pristina and Skopje, from 4 to 6 November 2026*: Chairperson

(b) *Attendance of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Promotion of Dialogue and Confidence-Building, Ambassador S. Rumin, at the ninth Paris Peace Forum, held on 10 and 11 November 2026*: Chairperson

(c) *Sixty-eighth round of the Geneva International Discussions, co-chaired by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador C. Späti, and held on 10 and 11 November 2026*: Chairperson

Agenda item 9: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/132/26 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Virtual round table entitled "Debunking the Bucha Hoax", to be held on 13 November 2026: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1136/26 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 19 November 2026, at 10 a.m., in the Ratsaal

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, 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.

PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 4

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Serbia welcomes the adoption of this decision.

We should like to thank the Swiss Chairmanship for all its efforts, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for its engagement, and all delegations for their constructive approach to finding a way forward and reaching consensus.

Serbia has extended an official invitation to the ODIHR to observe the forthcoming early presidential election. We highly value our long-standing co-operation, including the recent observation of the early parliamentary elections held on 25 October.

We look forward to working closely with the ODIHR in the period ahead and stand ready to facilitate the election observation mission's work, in line with our OSCE commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 5

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE (ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY AND POLAND)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Head of Mission, dear Chris Smith, welcome to the Permanent Council for your first report since taking up your post.

France, Germany and Poland align themselves with the statement by the European Union, but we wish to add a few words following our visit to Moldova from 18 to 20 October 2026.

The aim of this visit, organized in the Weimar Triangle format, was to take stock of the work carried out by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, shortly after its new Head had taken up his post; I should like to thank him once again, along with his team, for the competent manner in which we were hosted.

We held talks with representatives of the Moldovan Government, and with the chief negotiator in Tiraspol, where we also visited a Romanian-language school, and met with members of civil society.

This field visit with the OSCE team in Moldova enabled us to fully appreciate the excellent work performed by the Mission to promote dialogue and a settlement of the situation for the benefit of the local inhabitants.

For this reason, and in accordance with the decision establishing the Mission, which was adopted by consensus, we should like to reiterate that the Mission requires predictability and must, as a matter of priority, be granted an annual mandate.

We have also noted a worrying increase in illegal overflights and the crashing of Russian drones on Moldovan territory, including four in the Security Zone in recent weeks. In this context, the presentation of reports on the situation (“spot reports”) to the Permanent Council would be useful in preventing escalation.

Lastly, we reiterate the unwavering commitment of France, Germany and Poland to Moldova's sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders, and their full support for the people and authorities of Moldova in their European aspirations.

I would be grateful if you could kindly attach this statement to the journal of the day.

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 5

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova welcomes Mr. Christopher Smith to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his first report as Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We thank his team, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and its Special Representative, Ambassador Thomas Lenk, for their sustained engagement.

Our objective is a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable Transnistrian settlement, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders. We are pursuing this objective through dialogue, respect for fundamental rights, and practical measures that advance reintegration and improve citizens' lives.

Four priorities guide our work.

First, sustaining dialogue and delivering concrete results for citizens living on both banks of the Nistru River.

The OSCE-facilitated dialogue in the "1+1" format remains a key instrument for maintaining direct communication between the national authorities in Chișinău and *de facto* leaders in Tiraspol, addressing practical issues and building confidence. Against the backdrop of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and its profound implications for regional security, sustaining this dialogue and translating commitments into tangible results for all citizens is more important than ever.

The political representatives held three meetings in the "1+1" format this year, namely on 26 February, 16 April and 24 September. Ten meetings of sectoral experts and daily working contacts sustained that dialogue. During this year's drought, co-operation on water releases from the Dubăsari dam brought relief to communities on both banks.

We are ready to meet again before the end of the year, as agreed, and call upon *de facto* leaders in Tiraspol to come prepared in order to set dates for the next steps. Dialogue must deliver concrete results, including the resolution of practical problems and the restoration of all rights. We expect commitments to be implemented without delay.

Our second priority is to advance economic convergence and build a common space of rights, services and opportunities.

Some 360,000 residents of the Transnistria region hold Moldovan citizenship, 83,000 benefit from national health insurance and 23,000 are formally employed on the right bank of the Nistru River. Businesses in the region trade abroad under Moldovan law. More than 77 per cent of the region's exports already go to the European Union.

The law that extends value added tax and excise duties to goods imported by businesses in the region also established the Convergence Fund. The Fund will draw on a share of the taxes and duties paid by residents and businesses in the region, as well as on contributions from external donors. It will support healthcare, schools, social services and local infrastructure, contributing to reintegration and delivering tangible benefits for all citizens.

The new rules are being introduced in stages, giving businesses time to plan and prepare in advance. The first stage began on 1 September 2026 and applied to selected goods, including alcohol, tobacco and certain vehicles. The second stage, scheduled to begin on 1 January 2027, will extend the rules to petroleum products, base metals and certain minerals. The third stage will cover natural gas and electricity and takes effect on 1 April 2027.

The implementation objective of the new law is full alignment by 1 January 2030. Government authorities explained the forthcoming changes at "1+1" dialogue meetings in February and April this year and also briefed businesses directly on 14 August. Equal tax treatment ensures fair competition and greater transparency in the use of public revenues.

Our third priority is to defend fundamental rights and secure lasting solutions to unresolved humanitarian issues.

During all three "1+1" dialogue meetings this year, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Valeriu Chiveri of the Moldovan Government raised the issue of permanent premises for the Romanian-language schools. Since professors and pupils were evicted from the schools' premises in 2002. Consequently, they are forced to daily travel from Grigoriopol to Dorotcaia for lessons. Moldovan authorities insist that *de facto* leaders in Tiraspol must agree to the return of the "Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt" Lyceum to Grigoriopol and allow a technical inspection of the "Evrica" Lyceum complex in Rîbnița. We ask the Mission to follow both cases through to a permanent solution.

In the 2026/27 school year, 2,088 pupils are attending the eight Romanian-language schools serving the Transnistria region, up from 1,677 in 2022/23. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has allocated an additional 5 million lei to support these schools in 2026. Parents must be free to choose them without intimidation. Pupils must be able to complete their education without threats of forced conscription. These long-standing obstacles require durable solutions and should remain a priority for the Mission.

We welcome the release of Emilian Ceban and Evghenii Pancioha in July and the Mission's medical visit to four unlawfully detained persons on 17 September. We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all unlawfully detained persons.

Until their release, all detainees must receive adequate medical care and humane treatment. The Mission and the People's Advocate Office of the Republic of Moldova must have unhindered access to them. We ask the Head of Mission to pursue each outstanding case and report to the Permanent Council on access, conditions and progress towards release.

The fourth priority guiding our work is to safeguard stability in the Security Zone and address the wider consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Regrettably, Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine continues to undermine European security, with direct implications for the Republic of Moldova, regional stability and the Transnistrian settlement process. Ukraine and its people continue to bear a devastating human cost. Russia's relentless attacks on civilians and critical energy infrastructure have claimed innocent lives, including those of rescue workers, and left communities without essential services as winter approaches. These attacks are not only aggravating human suffering in Ukraine but also extend security consequences and impacts well beyond its borders, reinforcing the urgency of a peaceful and sustainable Transnistrian settlement.

By 6 November, Moldova's Ministry of Defence had recorded 106 incidents involving violations of our national airspace since 2022, including 69 this year. The Mission documented four drone incidents in the Security Zone, all close to civilian infrastructure. When disagreement within the Joint Military Command prevented military observers from reaching one site, the Mission established the facts independently.

On 17 August, the Mission's monitors were denied access to units in Bender and Crasnaia Gorca. Prompt verification helps to prevent miscalculation. We call for the Mission to have full and unhindered access throughout the Transnistria region and the Security Zone. The Mission's impartial monitoring and verification remain essential for transparency, confidence-building and risk reduction. The need for access extends to Cobasna. Restrictions on its access must cease.

The continued illegal presence of Russian forces and ammunition remains a fundamental obstacle to a sustainable settlement, which must be based on internationally pledged commitments for Moldova's sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders. Particularly, the Russian Federation must fulfil the commitments that it undertook at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999. Therefore, we call for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces illegally stationed on Moldovan territory, together with their military equipment and ammunition, under appropriate international monitoring.

We also reaffirm our objective of transforming the current peacekeeping arrangement in the security zone into a multinational civilian mission under an appropriate international mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

Country reintegration and European integration are two mutually reinforcing strategic national objectives of the Republic of Moldova. As our country advances towards EU membership, citizens on both banks of the Nistru River must be able to exercise the same rights, rely on high-quality public services and benefit from access to the European market.

During its recent Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Moldova sought to advance precisely this vision of a more secure, democratic and united Europe. We particularly valued the joint visit undertaken to Chișinău in May by Council of Europe Secretary General Alain Berset, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Ignazio Cassis and OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu, and the extended "2+2" meeting between senior leaders of both organizations, convened at the initiative of the Swiss Chairmanship.

The Transnistrian settlement process is indeed an area where such co-operation can make a lasting difference. The complementary expertise of the OSCE and the Council of Europe can help to advance practical solutions and build confidence on both banks of the Nistru River.

We equally welcome the continued political engagement of OSCE participating States, reflected in two recent visits to Moldova by Permanent Representatives accredited to the OSCE in Vienna. Such engagement helps to keep the Transnistrian settlement process high on the OSCE agenda and encourages progress to be made beyond the status quo.

Mr. Chairperson,

Permanent premises for Romanian-language schools, the release of unlawfully detained persons and investment through the Convergence Fund would bolster confidence in a shared European future. Our approach is to advance reintegration step by step by improving the daily lives of all citizens and strengthening a common legal, economic and social space.

Families are already choosing Romanian-language schools, workers are building livelihoods on the right bank of the Nistru River and businesses in the region are finding customers across the European Union.

This is the direction Moldova has chosen: peaceful reintegration, grounded in fundamental rights, supported by practical convergence and anchored in our European future, which is based on democratic values, respect for human rights and human dignity, an independent judiciary and a free market economy.

Mr. Smith,

You can count on the Republic of Moldova's full co-operation and on our support for an annual mandate with the resources that your Mission needs.

At a time of heightened regional insecurity, the OSCE Mission to Moldova remains indispensable in facilitating dialogue, monitoring developments and supporting practical solutions.

We wish you every success as Head of Mission and look forward to working closely with you and your team to advance a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable settlement that benefits all citizens of the Republic of Moldova on both banks of the Nistru River.

Thank you.

PC.JOUR/1585
12 November 2026
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 7(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Secretary General, I would like to make a few remarks.

It is now more than four years since three OSCE staff, Ukrainian nationals, Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov, have been detained.

During this time, we have remained in close touch with their families. Over the weekend, we have been informed that Vadym Golda has communicated to his family and that he has arrived in a detention facility in the Tambov region of the Russian Federation.

Since the first day he assumed his position, the Secretary General has relentlessly personally and closely engaged with both the Russian Federation and Ukraine, pursuing every possible diplomatic avenue to secure their release as soon as possible.

Recent confidence-building measures agreed between the sides have raised hopes that could contribute to further progress on urgent humanitarian issues.

These efforts are very delicate and require the utmost diplomatic and human care.

Distinguished delegates,

Let us not forget. At the heart of this matter are three Ukrainian OSCE colleagues who have been separated from their families for more than four years.

Thank you.

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1535
12 November 2026

Original: ENGLISH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 1535
TIMETABLE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(Lugano, 3 and 4 December 2026)

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE,

Decides:

To adopt the timetable of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council as set out below.

I. Timetable

Thursday, 3 December 2026

10 a.m. **Opening session (open)**

– Formal opening and adoption of the agenda

– Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

– Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

– Report by the OSCE Secretary General

First plenary session (closed)

– Statements by heads of delegations

1.15 p.m. Lunch for the Ministers for Foreign Affairs or heads of delegations

3–6 p.m. **Second plenary session (closed)**

– Statements by heads of delegations

6 p.m. Press conference

Friday, 4 December 2026

10 a.m. **Third plenary session (closed)**

– Statements by heads of delegations

– Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions

– Closing statements by delegations

– Any other business

Closing session (open)

– Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming OSCE Chairpersons-in-Office)

PC.DEC/1535
12 November 2026
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

The delegation of Ireland, 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 timetable of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union welcomes the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the timetable for the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, in line with the Rules of Procedure.

In the absence of a Permanent Council decision on the organizational modalities for this Ministerial Council meeting, we reaffirm that representatives of international organizations, institutions, and initiatives should be invited to participate, deliver oral interventions, or distribute written contributions according to the previously agreed list. We do not see any new developments that would warrant expanding this list at this time.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today's meeting.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, and San Marino align themselves with this statement."

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1536
12 November 2026

Original: ENGLISH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1536
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

The Permanent Council

Decides to request the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council a draft agenda for the Thirty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1537
12 November 2026

Original: ENGLISH

1585th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1585, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1537
2026 REVISED BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Recalling Decision No. 1526 of 19 March 2026 on the approval of the 2026 Unified Budget,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv) concerning transfers between programmes,

Taking note of the additional requirements identified under PC.ACMF/48/26/Rev.1 of 11 November 2026,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the 1992 Helsinki Summit Document, as well as Permanent Council Decisions No. 241 (1998), No. 428 (2001) and No. 476 (2002), setting the mandate and modalities for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Underlining that this decision does not establish any precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings,

Approves, on an exceptional basis, the budget revision of 443,200 euros in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv), as set forth in the annex.

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12 November 2026
Annex

2026 REVISED BUDGET

Programme	Approved Budget	Transfers as per Fin. Reg. 3.02 (a)(iv)	Revised Budget
Human Dimension Meetings	595,700	(443,200)	152,500
Elections	6,012,100	443,200	6,455,300
Other ODIHR programmes	8,458,300	–	8,458,300
TOTAL ODIHR	15,066,100	–	15,066,100

PC.DEC/1537
12 November 2026
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 Ireland (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden):

"In connection with the adoption of the decision on the 2026 Revised Budget for the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1 (A) 6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. I am making this statement on behalf of European Union Member States.

The European Union Member States endorse the draft decision. We thank the Swiss Chairmanship for their hard work gathering consensus on this decision.

We reiterate our support for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)'s established election observation methodology. We underline the ODIHR's election observation missions provide a comprehensive, objective, and fact-based assessment of the entire electoral cycle.

We therefore support the budget revision of 443,200 euros in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.02(a)(iv) to provide the funds enabling the observation of early presidential elections in the Republic of Serbia, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent. We welcome that the Republic of Serbia has extended a timely invitation to the ODIHR in line with our collective commitments, even ahead of announcing the official date of the election.

The EU Member States regret that it was not possible to utilise the Human Dimension Meeting's Programme for its intended purpose due to one participating State again blocking consensus on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting remains a crucial and unique platform for engaging with civil society, for listening to independent voices and for holding our governments accountable for the implementation of our OSCE commitments. This decision does not establish a precedent for the budget or organization of future Human Dimension Implementation Meetings.

The EU Member States reiterate their full support for the mandate and autonomy of the ODIHR. The ODIHR's activities across its entire mandate are essential to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area. It therefore remains deeply

regrettable that the ODIHR, including the Elections Department, continues to be underfunded through the Unified Budget. We believe that the ODIHR must be sufficiently staffed and resourced to carry out its vital work.

Finally, I would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day."