

PC.JOUR/1205 29 November 2018

#### **Chairmanship: Italy**

#### **1205th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. <u>Date</u>: Thursday, 29 November 2018

 Opened:
 10.10 a.m.

 Suspended:
 12.50 p.m.

 Resumed:
 3.10 p.m.

 Closed:
 4.15 p.m.

2. <u>Chairperson</u>: Ambassador A. Azzoni Ambassador L. Fratini

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, also on behalf of the Council, offered condolences to the United States of America on the deaths of the three US servicemen who lost their lives near Ghazni, Afghanistan, on 27 November 2018.

3. <u>Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:</u>

Agenda item 1: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/32/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1477/18), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1499/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1493/18), Turkey (PC.DEL/1498/18 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1492/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1480/18), Canada, Switzerland, Holy See, Norway (PC.DEL/1501/18), Australia (Partner for Co-operation), United Kingdom, Belarus (PC.DEL/1478/18 OSCE+), Ukraine

Agenda item 3: REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LATVIAN-RUSSIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON MILITARY PENSIONERS

Chairperson, OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners (PC.FR/33/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1494/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/1481/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1484/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

#### Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1308 (PC.DEC/1308) on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the text of which is appended to this journal.

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

# Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

#### Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1309 (PC.DEC/1309) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania, the text of which is appended to this journal.

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

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1310 (PC.DEC/1310) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 7: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1311 (PC.DEC/1311) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1312 (PC.DEC/1312) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 9: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1313 (PC.DEC/1313) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 10: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1314 (PC.DEC/1314) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the text of which is appended to this journal.

#### Agenda item 11: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1315 (PC.DEC/1315) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 12: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1316 (PC.DEC/1316) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 13: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on 25 November 2018: Norway (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/1502/18), Chairperson, Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1495/18), Slovenia (PC.DEL/1486/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/1482/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1487/18), Holy See, United Kingdom
- (b) *Claims made by the Russian Federation concerning chemical weapons:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1489/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/1483/18), Russian Federation, United Kingdom
- (c) Statements regarding the unification of Albania and Kosovo and trade tariffs imposed by Priština: Serbia (PC.DEL/1496/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1490/18), Cyprus (PC.DEL/1491/18 OSCE+), Spain, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, United States of America (PC.DEL/1485/18)

Agenda item 14: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Modalities related to the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council:* Chairperson
- (b) Appointment of Ambassador H. Villadsen as Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (CIO.GAL/178/18): Chairperson

Agenda item 15: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, held in Rome on 27 November 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Helsinki on 23 November 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the Italian Guardia di Finanza, signed in Vienna on 26 November 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (e) Participation of the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in the Eleventh Budapest Human Rights Forum, held in Budapest on 27 and 28 November 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (f) Call for nominations for the post of Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/188/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/188/18/Add.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Video presentation by the OSCE MenEngage Network on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence: Chairperson

4. <u>Next meeting</u>:

To be announced



PC.DEC/1308 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 4

### DECISION No. 1308 EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014 on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.DEC/1130),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the deployment of OSCE observers to the two Russian border checkpoints of Donetsk and Gukovo on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 31 May 2019;

2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/101/18 of 16 November 2018. In this respect, authorizes the use of 419,000 euros from 2016 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 31 May 2019.

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 Austria, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

"In connection with the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

The European Union's views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Russian-Ukrainian State border are well known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of this border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments, which re-establishes full Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for permanent monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of Measures includes a commitment to reinstate full Ukrainian control over its entire international border.

The OSCE Observer Mission's currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the Observer Mission to all border crossings on the Russia-Ukraine State border currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and we reiterate the need for the SMM to be assured safe and unhindered access to all parts of the border currently not under Ukrainian Government control since border and ceasefire monitoring are very closely interlinked. Further we underline the need for sufficient equipment and sufficient freedom of movement for the Observer Mission at the current crossing stations in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist any expansion of the Observer Mission including the improvement of its equipment.

We welcome the mandate extension by four months."

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

<sup>1</sup> The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Original: ENGLISH

# INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of the United States of America:

"In connection with the adoption of the decision for the extension of deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States finds it deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation continues to block the expansion of the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States to do so. We once again must accept an inadequate, limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which together account for only a few hundred meters of the 2,300 kilometre Ukrainian-Russian border, much of which Ukraine does not control.

Due to Russia's unwarranted restrictions of the border Observer Mission's work, the Mission will continue to be unable to ascertain the full extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of arms, funding, and personnel to support the forces Russia arms, trains, leads and fights alongside in eastern Ukraine.

We note that point 4 of the Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and to create a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is to the detriment of all efforts to resolve the conflict that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation's repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission shows, regrettably, once again, that it refuses to fulfil its Minsk commitments.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson."

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 Ukraine:

"Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The delegation of Ukraine consistently reiterates the importance of having a substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, which is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the international armed conflict started by Russia and taking place on the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, all signatories including the Russian Federation, undertook to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification by the OSCE with the establishment of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Until now, the permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE have not been established and a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and Russia has not been formed. Expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian border checkpoints 'Gukovo' and 'Donetsk' to all sections of the border adjacent to the occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions remains critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the Donbas region of Ukraine and would be a significant practical measure in implementing concrete provisions of the Minsk agreements.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation continues to strongly resist expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian border checkpoints 'Gukovo' and 'Donetsk' to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities. Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can be attributed only to its unchanged intention to continue intervention in Ukraine's Donbas, including by sending heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring the terrorist activities in the territory of Ukraine. We continue to urge Russia to cease immediately these internationally wrongful acts. In this connection, the delegation of Ukraine recalls that Russia has not responded to numerous requests for explanations on the OSCE SMM reported presence in the occupied parts of Donbas of modern Russian weapons and military equipment. Moreover, since August 2018, the SMM has observed convoys of trucks entering and exiting Ukraine from Russia via a dirt track where there are no border crossing facilities in the occupied area of Donetsk region in the middle of the night on seven occasions. These are yet other established facts that Russia deliberately prolongs the conflict and sustains the fighting in eastern Ukraine despite international efforts to bring peace.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith and to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions with establishment of a security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson".

ENGLISH Original: RUSSIAN

# INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

"The Russian Federation joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the latest extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border for four months (until 31 May 2019), regarding the work of this team as an additional confidence-building measure in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by the team's mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014, which is based on the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 made in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine of 2 July 2014.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 does not mention the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. Nor is there any reference to this in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 and subsequently endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The decision to allow OSCE observers on Russian territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on Russia's part.

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



PC.DEC/1309 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 5

#### DECISION No. 1309 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1310 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 6

#### DECISION No. 1310 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA

The Permanent Council,

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

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 Kazakhstan:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We emphasize the importance of both the work of the field mission within its mandate and close co-operation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We would like to stress the importance of organizing a meeting with the designated government agency twice a year in order to identify project activities and evaluate the work of the OSCE Programme Office.

Taking into account positive political developments in Central Asia, we wish to note that the government authorities of Kazakhstan are interested in the OSCE working with a focus on regional and subregional projects.

Programmatic activities of the Programme Office in all three dimensions should be well balanced; we call for a focus on projects promoting connectivity and the transition to the green economy.

Last but not least, we would like to bring up Article 41 of the Charter for European Security, which states: 'The host country of an OSCE field operation should, when appropriate, be assisted in building its own capacity and expertise within the area of responsibility. This would facilitate an efficient transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation.' Therefore, an 'exit strategy' should be an integral part of any field operation of the OSCE.

We propose to create a new-generation OSCE presence in Astana as the next evolutionary step following the success story of the existing field operation. We believe that this new entity should focus on pursuing sustainable connectivity and the transition to a green economy by means of exchange of best practices and through research and analytical work. I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

I thank you."



PC.DEC/1311 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 7

#### DECISION No. 1311 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1312 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 8

#### DECISION No. 1312 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1313 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 9

#### DECISION No. 1313 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1314 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 10

#### DECISION No. 1314 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1315 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 11

#### DECISION No. 1315 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje until 31 December 2019.



PC.DEC/1316 29 November 2018

Original: ENGLISH

**1205th Plenary Meeting** PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 12

#### DECISION No. 1316 EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan until 31 December 2019.