



Chairmanship: Germany

1098th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 28 April 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.45 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. Pohl

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

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/13/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/564/16), Canada (PC.DEL/590/16 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/570/16 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/594/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/559/16), Turkey (PC.DEL/572/16 OSCE+), France (PC.DEL/557/16), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/596/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/586/16), Norway

(PC.DEL/593/16), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/578/16 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/561/16 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/573/16)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/576/16), Netherlands-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, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/565/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/558/16), Canada (PC.DEL/591/16 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/585/16)
- (b) *30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant:* Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/577/16), Belarus (Annex), Switzerland (PC.DEL/571/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/566/16), Canada (PC.DEL/592/16 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/560/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/582/16), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/597/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-European Union (PC.DEL/567/16)
- (c) *Violation of the right to freedom of assembly and expression in the United States of America:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/584/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/588/16)
- (d) *Parliamentary elections in Serbia, held on 24 April 2016:* Netherlands-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 Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/568/16/Rev.1), United States of America (PC.DEL/562/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/583/16), Serbia (PC.DEL/574/16 OSCE+)
- (e) *The situation along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan:* Armenia (PC.DEL/581/16), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/580/16 OSCE+)
- (f) *Violations by the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016:* Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/579/16 OSCE+)

- (g) *Second Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, held in Yerevan on 23 April 2016, and the Aurora Prize Award presented in Yerevan on 24 April 2016: Armenia (PC.DEL/589/16), Turkey*
- (h) *The case of Mr. A. Askarov in Kyrgyzstan: Netherlands-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; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/569/16), United States of America (PC.DEL/563/16), Kyrgyzstan*

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

- (a) *Letters sent by Chairperson-in-Office on 19 April 2016 to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation regarding the situation in Ukraine: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/58/16)*
- (b) *Concerns expressed by the Chairperson-in-Office on 27 April 2016 about the increasing number of ceasefire violations and incidents in eastern Ukraine involving monitors belonging to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/58/16)*
- (c) *Meeting between the Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 and the Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, held in Berlin on 28 April 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/58/16)*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General: Head of Conference Services*
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Fifth Moscow Conference on International Security, held from 26 to 28 April 2016: Head of Conference Services*
- (c) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the ambassadors of the European Union Political and Security Committee (PSC), held on 25 April 2016: Head of Conference Services*
- (d) *Presentation of OSCE activities related to the Chernobyl disaster at the International Conference “Thirty years after Chernobyl: From an emergency to the revival and sustainable socio-economic development of the affected territories”, held in Minsk on 25 April 2016: Head of Conference Services*
- (e) *Appeal for nominations for senior management posts at the OSCE: Head of Conference Services*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Activities of the Informal Working Group on Migration: Switzerland*
- (b) *Visit by OSCE Ambassadors to Bosnia and Herzegovina to be conducted on 20 and 21 June 2016: United Kingdom*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 May 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

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28 April 2016

Annex

ENGLISH

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1098th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1098, Agenda item 3(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

A few days ago, the world marked a tragic date – the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, one of the largest man-made disasters of the twentieth century. As you are aware, the consequences of that accident affected many European countries, but Belarus, Ukraine and Russia have suffered the most.

In my country, 46,000 square kilometres, or approximately one quarter of its territory, was radioactively contaminated. The damage caused to Belarus by the Chernobyl disaster, calculated over the 30-year period of dealing with its aftermath, has been estimated at 235 billion United States dollars, which is equivalent to 32 times the national budget for 1985.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, we had to deal with the consequences of Chernobyl on our own. Addressing these consequences became the most important task for Belarus as a sovereign State. Much has been done over the years: a legal and regulatory framework has been established, and comprehensive State programmes are being implemented to minimize the negative consequences of radioactive contamination, rehabilitate territories, and ensure social protection and health care for the population and the economic development of the affected regions. For example, during the period from 1990 to 2015, five State programmes to deal with Chernobyl were implemented at a cost of more than 22 billion United States dollars. However, much remains to be done.

Belarus attaches key importance to the development of international co-operation on Chernobyl. We appreciate the help and support provided to us by international organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations of other countries, and we stand ready to share the experience we have gained to help deal with similar disasters.

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to take this opportunity to inform you that an international conference entitled “Thirty years after Chernobyl. From an Emergency to Revival and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Affected Territories” was held in Minsk on 25 April. Ms. Helen Clark, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and representatives of the

governments of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and a number of other countries, as well as international organizations, attended the conference.

The Minsk forum was primarily aimed at drawing up specific proposals for the development of international co-operation on Chernobyl after the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions under the auspices of the United Nations, which will end this year.

A declaration was adopted at the end of the conference in which the main priorities of international co-operation on Chernobyl were outlined:

- Disseminating unique knowledge and exchanging best practices in dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;
- Strengthening national capacities to prevent and respond to emergencies, including environmental and radiation monitoring and timely forecasting of risks of the occurrence of man-made emergencies;
- Launching the initiative “Sustainable Development Goals in the Affected Regions through Partnership, Innovation and Investment” in 2017 with the support of the United Nations.

It is encouraging that the OSCE Secretariat does not remain on the sidelines either when it comes to the problems associated with Chernobyl. In that connection, we should like to express our gratitude to Mr. Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, who attended the conference, for his constructive and substantive contribution to the forum’s work and also for the support of his Office and donor countries to Chernobyl-related projects, such as preparing maps of radioactively contaminated areas and combating forest fires on both sides of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border.

It should be noted that despite considerable efforts by the affected countries themselves, effective international co-operation remains an important part of the work to deal with the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. We trust that the OSCE will continue to make an important contribution to this process.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret that today, just as in December 2015 in Belgrade when Belarus submitted a draft ministerial declaration on the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the participating States have been unable to reach a consensus on so important a topic as the Chernobyl tragedy.

We firmly believe that humanitarian issues like these should not divide participating States, but should be used to strengthen the spirit of solidarity of the entire OSCE community.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.