
Chairmanship: Austria**1129th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 26 January 2017

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Koja
Ambassador K. Kögeler

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, Malta-European Union, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, and the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance offered their condolences to Hungary in connection with the tragic bus crash in Italy on 20 January 2017. Hungary expressed its gratitude to the Permanent Council for its expression of sympathy. Hungary also offered its condolences to Italy in connection with a helicopter crash on 24 January 2017.

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Dong-ik Shin.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, MR. IOANNIS KASOULIDES

Chairperson, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus (PC.DEL/82/17), Malta-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/99/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/76/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/73/17), Canada, Switzerland (PC.DEL/105/17 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/111/17), Georgia, Ukraine (PC.DEL/88/17), Serbia, Armenia (PC.DEL/114/17), Turkey, Holy See (PC.DEL/75/17 OSCE+), Greece (PC.DEL/97/17 OSCE+), Andorra (PC.DEL/80/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Latvia (PC.DEL/98/17), Estonia, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE, H.E. AMBASSADOR MIHNEA CONSTANTINESCU

Chairperson, Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (PC.DEL/110/17 OSCE+), Israel (Partner for Co-operation), Malta-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/100/17), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/74/17) (PC.DEL/96/17), Germany (PC.DEL/78/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/103/17 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/89/17) (PC.DEL/91/17), Norway (PC.DEL/113/17), Ukraine (PC.DEL/87/17), Armenia (PC.DEL/115/17), Turkey, Holy See (PC.DEL/77/17 OSCE+), Iceland (PC.DEL/84/17 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: UPDATE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF THE OSCE OBSERVER MISSION AT THE RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS GUKOVO AND DONETSK

Chairperson, Secretary General, Switzerland (Annex), Malta-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/90/17), Ukraine, United States of America (PC.DEL/79/17) Canada

Agenda item 4. REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/85/17), Malta-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 Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/102/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/81/17), Switzerland (PC.DEL/101/17 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/86/17 OSCE+), Canada

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/92/17), Ukraine
- (c) *Enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan:* Malta-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; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/106/17), Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada and Iceland) (PC.DEL/107/17 OSCE+), Turkmenistan
- (d) *The cases of Mr. M. Bokayev and Mr. T. Ayan in Kazakhstan:* Malta-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; as well as the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/104/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/83/17), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/94/17 OSCE+)
- (e) *Violation of the rights of migrants in the European Union:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/93/17), Malta-European Union
- (f) *The case of Mr. A. Askarov in Kyrgyzstan:* Malta-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 the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/108/17), Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process to Chisinau and Tiraspol conducted from 17 to 20 January 2017:* Chairperson
- (b) *Seventy-third meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), held on 18 January 2017:* Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the OSCE Chairmanship Business Conference on “Partnership and innovation for sustainable economies”, held in Vienna on 25 January 2017 (SEC.GAL/11/17 OSCE+):* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the first preparatory meeting for the Twenty-Fifth Economic and Environmental Forum, held in Vienna on 23 and 24 January 2017 (SEC.GAL/11/17 OSCE+):* Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Language conforming meeting of documents adopted by the Ministerial Council in 2016, to be held on 3 February 2017:* Germany
- (b) *Constitutional reforms in Kazakhstan:* Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/95/17 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 27 January 2017, at 4 p.m., in the Neuer Saal



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PC Journal No. 1129, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland is concerned that the Permanent Council is still not in a position to prolong the mandate of several field operations, among which is the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk. All the Missions with mandates that are currently not prolonged are important for security and co-operation in the OSCE area, the Office in Yerevan and the field presences in Central Asian countries as well as the said OSCE Observer Mission. However, due to the Observer Mission's specific institutional arrangements, in the absence of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the OSCE a failure to prolong its mandate would mean it would have to terminate its activities by the end of this month.

If this were to happen, it would send a very unfortunate political signal throughout the OSCE area and would be tantamount to limiting international efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. It would mean that the OSCE would be voluntarily renouncing one of its main observation tools, which provides us with independent and reliable information about the situation at the border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Along with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the Observer Mission is one of OSCE's main tools for contributing to a peaceful resolution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. It would not serve security and co-operation to close an OSCE Mission for reasons that are not directly connected to that Mission and at a time when the host country has not expressed its intention to do so. It would also create a precedent. As a consequence, the credibility of the OSCE would be damaged.

Mr. Chairperson,

The security of the OSCE area is at stake. It is the responsibility of all participating States to support the Chairmanship in finding a way out of the current situation and to prolong the mandate of the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk before the end of the month.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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