
Chairmanship: Italy**1199th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 1 November 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 5.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to the families of the victims of the attack that took place at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, United States of America, on 27 October 2018. He also expressed solidarity with the Russian Federation in connection with the bomb attack carried out in Arkhangelsk on 31 October 2018, and extended condolences to Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) in connection with the tragic helicopter crash that occurred in Farah Province on 31 October 2018.

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

Agenda item 1: **REPORT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON
NATIONAL MINORITIES**

Chairperson, High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/9/18/Rev.1), 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 countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1317/18), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1295/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1294/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/1288/18), Turkey, Switzerland, Hungary (PC.DEL/1324/18 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Georgia (PC.DEL/1312/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1291/18 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1306/18), Canada, Albania

(PC.DEL/1316/18 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria
(PC.DEL/1325/18), Romania, Latvia

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO
 MOLDOVA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova (PC.FR/30/18 OSCE+), 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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1318/18), Switzerland, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1289/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/1290/18), Turkey (PC.DEL/1322/18 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1309/18), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1296/18 OSCE+), Moldova (PC.DEL/1313/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and the illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1308/18), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1321/18), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1323/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1293/18), Canada, Germany (also on behalf of France) (PC.DEL/1297/18)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1299/18), Ukraine, Canada
- (c) *United Nations International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, to be observed on 2 November 2018*: Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1319/18), Norway (also on behalf of Andorra, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, San Marino and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/1315/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1303/18), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1310/18), Germany (also on behalf of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1314/18), Slovakia, Armenia, France, Turkey
- (d) *Attacks in Jeffersontown, United States of America, on 24 October 2018 and Pittsburgh, United States of America, on 27 October 2018*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1298/18), 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; 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/1320/18), Canada, Holy See (PC.DEL/1311/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1301/18), Turkey, Switzerland

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

- (a) *Conference on “Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age: Recent Trends and Best Practices in the OSCE Area”, to be held in Rome on 12 and 13 November 2018: Chairperson*
- (b) *Call for nominations for the 2018 White Ribbon awards for the promotion of gender equality in the OSCE (SEC.GAL/150/18 OSCE+): Chairperson*
- (c) *Conference on “Digital Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area”, held on 30 October 2018: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Call for nominations for the 2018 White Ribbon awards for the promotion of gender equality in the OSCE: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on “The Importance of Energy for Economic Growth and Co-operation in the Mediterranean”, held in Malaga, Spain, on 25 and 26 October 2018: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the high-level briefing of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), held on 18 October 2018: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Strategic retreat of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, held on 24 October 2018: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Participation of the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in the annual United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, held in New York on 25 October 2018: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)*

- (f) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Munich Security Conference's 2018 Core Group Meeting, held in Minsk on 31 October and 1 November 2018*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)
- (g) *Appointment of the new Head of the External Co-operation Section*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)
- (h) *Planned visits and meetings of the Secretary General*: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/176/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Invoking the Moscow Mechanism in connection with serious human rights violations in Chechnya, Russian Federation*: Iceland (also on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex), Russian Federation, France, United States of America, Chairperson, Canada
- (b) *2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on "The Importance of Energy for Economic Growth and Co-operation in the Mediterranean", held in Malaga, Spain, on 25 and 26 October 2018*: Slovakia
- (c) *Presentation of the Spanish-language version of the "Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities" developed jointly by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, held in Madrid on 30 October 2018*: Spain
- (d) *Lack of consensus on the draft Permanent Council decision on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2018 OSCE Asian Conference, to be held in Canberra on 5 and 6 November 2018*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1305/18), Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 8 November 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1199
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Annex

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, ESTONIA,
FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, IRELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following delegations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

On 30 August, we informed the Permanent Council about a letter we sent to the Russian delegation to request concrete information under the OSCE Vienna (human dimension) mechanism due to our concerns about credible reports of human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya. The letter of 4 September that we received in response unfortunately did not provide a substantive response to our questions.

This has only deepened our concern that the Russian Federation is unwilling or unable to address the reports of serious human rights violations and abuses, which contributes to a climate of impunity for authorities in Chechnya. We believe that the reported violations and abuses reflect a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension. We therefore are invoking paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (Moscow Mechanism) to establish a mission of experts to address the concerns outlined in our 30 August letter. Those concerns centred around allegations of impunity for reported human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya from January 2017 to the present, including, but not limited to, violations and abuses against persons based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as against human rights defenders, lawyers, independent media, civil society organizations, and others. Among the reported human rights violations and abuses were: allegations of harassment and persecution; arbitrary or unlawful arrests or detentions; torture; enforced disappearances; and extrajudicial executions.

In addition to establishing the facts and reporting on them, we encourage the mission of experts to give advice to the Russian Federation, to the OSCE, and to the international community on possible solutions to the questions raised.

We look forward to working with the ODIHR and the Russian delegation in the coming days on arrangements for the mission. An expert mission, one member of which may, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Moscow Document, be chosen by the government of the Russian Federation, should be able to give an objective and unbiased report and recommendations on these issues.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.