
Chairmanship: Austria**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1158th Plenary Meeting)**1. Date: Friday, 29 September 2017

Opened: 11.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Koja
Mr. M. Ehrmann3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND
RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM
(VERLT)

- INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE OSCE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE, H.E. SEBASTIAN KURZ
- PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON VERLT BY THE SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON
COUNTERING RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM,
PROFESSOR PETER NEUMANN
- UPDATE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON OSCE ACTIVITIES TO
COUNTER VERLT

Chairperson, Chairperson-in-Office (CIO.GAL/190/17), Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism (CIO.GAL/189/17/Corr.1) (SEC.GAL/126/17 Restr.), Secretary General (SEC.GAL/129/17), Estonia-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, and

Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1221/17), United States of America (PC.DEL/1215/17), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1228/17), Turkey (PC.DEL/1234/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1226/17 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1302/17), Norway (PC.DEL/1239/17), Spain (Annex), Serbia (PC.DEL/1245/17 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1227/17 OSCE+), France (PC.DEL/1244/17 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/1243/17 OSCE+), Romania (PC.DEL/1242/17 OSCE+), Croatia, Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/5/17 OSCE+), Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 October 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1158
29 September 2017
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

1158th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1158, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for convening this special meeting of the Permanent Council on “countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)”. I should also like to thank Professor Peter Neumann for his interesting report on VERLT.

Spain aligns itself fully with the statement made by the European Union, and I also wish to make a statement in my national capacity.

Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism requires a comprehensive effort on the part of all government agencies at the national, regional and local levels as well as society as a whole: citizens, educators, leaders of religious communities and denominations and especially vulnerable groups such as women, young people and minors.

Spain has valuable experience in tackling radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism. The National Plan to Combat Violent Radicalization is probably the most innovative and important instrument to deal with the phenomenon of jihadist radicalization in our country. It is a comprehensive plan that covers three dimensions: national, foreign and cyberspace, and has three levels of intervention: prevention, surveillance and action. It also incorporates a strategy for action at the local level, since local authorities play a fundamental role in preventing and understanding the sources of radicalization.

In this shared effort, young people are called upon to play a key role. Young people and youth organizations can greatly help us raise awareness to prevent and eradicate racism and xenophobia, to counter hate speech and the extremist narrative in social media, to improve the proper use of the Internet and tackle recruitment strategies for terrorist purposes, and help us to build more open societies capable of managing and integrating cultural and religious diversity and resisting the challenge of violence and radicalization.

A concrete example of what young people can do in this respect is the “Rewind” project, presented by a team of students from the CEU San Pablo University of Spain as part of the OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#UnitedCVE) campaign. The project,

which won first prize, is a good example of the potential of young people to make a real impact when it comes to combating violent extremism and radicalization in social media.

The 2017 OSCE Conference on Youth and Security, which Spain organized as the Chair of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security in the OSCE together with the Austrian Chairmanship and the OSCE in Malaga on 25 and 26 May, was especially useful. The Conference highlighted the important role of young people in prevention and consolidating peace, preventing radicalization and extremism, and creating more tolerant and inclusive societies. The Youth Forum adopted a Decalogue of recommendations that we encourage the consideration of and that we hope will guide the work of the OSCE in this field. We would emphasize recommendation No. 2 of the Malaga Decalogue on the importance of taking action in the field of social media and in educational centres.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that Spain will continue to support the Chairmanship's efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in co-ordination with the OSCE institutions and structures, the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Recommendation No. 2 of the Malaga Decalogue:

“Engage a broad Alliance of stakeholders, including formal and non-formal education providers, families, communities and at-risk-youths in preventing and countering violent extremism leading to radicalization and terrorism, through joint online efforts, such as information sharing platforms, social media campaigns and educational workshops in local high schools, featuring emotionally engaging positive counter narratives.”