



**Chairmanship: Albania**

**1285th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 15 October 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Suspended: 5.45 p.m.  
Resumed: 9 a.m. (Friday, 16 October 2020)  
Closed: 11.10 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani  
Ms. E. Dobrushki

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Permanent Council of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings of the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (PC.FR/37/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1415/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1341/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1342/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/1349/20 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1386/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1343/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1396/20 OSCE+), Germany (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland,

the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 1), Albania (PC.DEL/1389/20 OSCE+), Cyprus (Annex 2), Spain (Annex 3), Serbia (PC.DEL/1348/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2:           REPORT BY THE OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING  
IN HUMAN BEINGS

Chairperson, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SEC.GAL/128/20/Rev.1), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia 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/1410/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1347/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1344/20), Turkey, Holy See (PC.DEL/1345/20 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1401/20 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1367/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1346/20 OSCE+), Cyprus (PC.DEL/1352/20)

Agenda item 3:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1368/20), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1409/20), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1355/20 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1360/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1354/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1381/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1364/20), Ukraine
- (c) *Anti-Semitism in the European Union:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1359/20), Israel (Partner for Co-operation), Germany (Annex 4), France (PC.DEL/1353/20 OSCE+), Czech Republic, Lithuania (PC.DEL/1372/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Bulgaria
- (d) *Worsening human rights situation in the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova:* Moldova (Annex 5), United States of America (PC.DEL/1356/20), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1369/20), United Kingdom, Georgia (PC.DEL/1402/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1361/20 OSCE+)
- (e) *International Day of the Girl Child:* Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate

country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1413/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1358/20), Norway (also on behalf of Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/1388/20/Rev.1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1363/20)

- (f) *Recent developments in Belarus*: Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1411/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1382/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1357/20), United Kingdom, Norway (PC.DEL/1385/20), Canada (PC.DEL/1390/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1365/20 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1371/20 OSCE+)
- (g) *The aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters*: Armenia (Annex 6)
- (h) *Statement by France on behalf of the three countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group*: France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1398/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1370/20), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1414/20), Canada (PC.DEL/1391/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1373/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1383/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Armenia (PC.DEL/1393/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/1397/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (Annex 7) (PC.DEL/1379/20 OSCE+)
- (i) *Aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan*: Azerbaijan (Annex 8), Turkey (Annex 9)

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

- (a) *Meeting between the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, Hon. Mr. F.-P. Champagne, held in Vienna on 14 October 2020*: Chairperson
- (b) *Selection process for the posts of Secretary General, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Representative on Freedom of the Media, and Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights*: Chairperson, Turkey
- (c) *Update on the status of the draft decision on the 2020 Human Dimension Seminar*: Chairperson

- (d) *Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2020, entitled “Freedom of Religion or Belief: The Role of Digital Technologies and Civil Society Actors in Advancing this Human Right for All”, to be held via video teleconference on 9 and 10 November 2020: Chairperson*
- (e) *Annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, to be held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 19 and 20 October 2020: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

- (a) *Update on the Secretariat’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/150/20 OSCE+)*
- (b) *2020 OSCE Asian Conference, held via video teleconference on 12 and 13 October 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/150/20 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Interregional Conference on the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Security and Terrorism, held in Seoul and via video teleconference on 14 October 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/150/20 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Visit to Rome by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on 13 and 14 October 2020: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/150/20 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report on the activities of the Secretariat (SEC.GAL/150/20 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Third anniversary of the murder of journalist and blogger Ms. D. Caruana Galizia: Malta (Annex 10), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia 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 Moldova and Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1408/20)*
- (b) *Situation in Kyrgyzstan after the recent parliamentary elections: Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/1378/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia 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 and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1412/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1380/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1376/20),*

United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1392/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation  
(PC.DEL/1377/20), Norway (PC.DEL/1384/20)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 22 October 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1285  
15 October 2020  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,  
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK,  
ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY,  
LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY,  
SLOVENIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am making this statement in a national capacity and also on behalf of the United States of America, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

Mr. Chairperson,

We appreciate the outstanding work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in order to support the authorities of the country in strengthening their institutions. We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Jan Braathu to the Permanent Council and, since it will be his last presentation, we thank him for the excellent co-operation and look forward to continuing to work with his successor in the same constructive manner.

We welcome the fact that the Mission is continuously adapting its activities to Kosovo's needs. We recall that the Mission is the second largest of the OSCE field operations and that it plays an essential role in Kosovo. We recognize that, as a matter of good governance within our Organization, one of the best ways to understand how effectively OSCE field operations are implementing their work is to hear directly from the partners and beneficiaries on the ground. Therefore, we consider it essential to have contact among participating States and stakeholders, partners and interlocutors co-operating with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. We are therefore grateful to the Albanian Chairmanship for having organized such contact on the occasion of the very informative informal meeting yesterday according to a long-standing practice which does not affect respective positions on the status of Kosovo in regard to the OSCE. We look forward to continuing this practice also in the future.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1285  
15 October 2020  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS**

Mr. Chairperson,

I join other delegations in warmly welcoming Ambassador Jan Braathu back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his statement and comprehensive report. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the important work carried out by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo under the leadership of Ambassador Braathu, and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

The Republic of Cyprus fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union but I would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

The Republic of Cyprus does not recognize the 2008 Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. In this context, I would like to stress that any initiative with regards to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, should be consistent with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), along with the Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, which provides the Mission's mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Cyprus welcomes the resumption of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, and expresses its support to the EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajčák. The dialogue remains an essential requirement for both in order to advance on their respective European paths.

I would like to request for the statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.





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

PC.JOUR/1285  
15 October 2020  
Annex 3

ENGLISH  
Original: SPANISH

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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain endorses the statement made by the European Union on this item and would like once again to express its support for the important work performed by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo together with other institutions present on the territory of Kosovo. It would also like to thank Ambassador Jan Braathu for his statement and activity report and express its appreciation for the work that he is carrying out with his team.

Mr. Chairperson,

Like other participating States, Spain does not recognize the territory of Kosovo as a State and is of the view that any action concerning the OSCE Mission in Kosovo should be in keeping, as a frame of reference, with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Achieving progress in the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Priština dialogue is a prerequisite for both parties to be able to make headway in their respective paths towards Europe. In that regard, the territory of Kosovo has its own specific framework for relations within the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Spain continues to believe that dialogue and negotiation are the only possible means for resolving the dispute over the territory of Kosovo and that there is no point in attempting to expedite recognition of the territory unless a lasting agreement between the Serbian Government and the authorities in Priština is reached beforehand. Spain therefore supports this dialogue and would like to make constructive use of its good offices in order to stimulate it.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1285  
15 October 2020  
Annex 4

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(c)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

As my esteemed Russian colleague mentioned Germany in his statement, I should like to avail myself of the right of reply.

Germany, like all other European Union Member States and OSCE participating States, condemns and combats anti-Semitism in all its manifestations. It prosecutes and penalizes anti-Semitic offences and hate speech with all the means of a State governed by the rule of law.

Through a variety of educational initiatives and programmes, also within the framework of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, we work with younger generations to detect and counter past and present anti-Semitic excesses.

Germany was instrumental in establishing the working definition of anti-Semitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016 and endorsed it at the international level in 2017. It applies this definition in the police and judiciary.

Germany has learned and taken to heart the lessons from the inhuman history of anti-Semitism and does everything in its power to ensure that such excesses will not occur at any time in the future.

Through its assumption of the Chairmanship of the IHRA in 2020/2021, Germany emphasizes the importance it attaches to a sincere remembrance of the Holocaust focusing on the historical facts, the genocide of Sinti and Roma and the time of the National Socialist dictatorship.

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



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**1285th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

As mentioned in the last Permanent Council meeting on 8 October, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova would like to bring to the attention of the delegations of the OSCE participating States the regressive turn of human rights observance in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, currently under the control of a separatist regime in Tiraspol.

At the outset we would like to underline that the biggest majority of the population living in the Transnistrian region are citizens of the Republic of Moldova, with official Moldovan documents, who currently cannot benefit from the services, healthcare and protection and became hostages of the Tiraspol regime.

The Moldovan authorities have pointed out on numerous occasions the degrading situation of human rights in this region, but those calls have not resulted in any improvement in that respect. On the contrary, the continuous worsening of the situation can be observed lately, with the increasing number of the cases of declaring persons residing on the left bank of the Nistru river as undesirable, as well as abusive decisions by the Tiraspol illegal security structures on expulsion of those people for a period of three years from their own home villages and houses. Decisions regarding the expulsion were unmotivated, formulated in the language of ultimatum and pressure, giving to the people concerned three hours to leave the locality.

An extremely worrying evolution during the pandemic time is related to the kidnapping by the representatives of the Transnistrian military structures, disguised as civilians during the retention of the Moldovan citizens, with illegal deprivation of liberty on the basis of false accusations on various crimes on artificially fabricated cases such as alleged “extremist activities”, treason of homeland, illegal crossing of the border and other invented grounds, followed by seizure of their property and their imprisonment without informing the families and relatives about their whereabouts afterwards.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council the most serious cases of the rights having been violated by the Tiraspol regime, particularly in the last months.

Tiraspol has abandoned its commitments to free movement in relation to Moldovan citizens and officials. For eight months, the de facto structures from the Transnistrian region have not only introduced the “notification system” for citizens, but also the “unilateral transition decision system”, while the “system of prohibition to enter the region” has been introduced for officials who travel for private or work reasons.

Tiraspol’s illegal and obstructive actions are manifested in the following forms: expulsions of Moldovan citizens from their own homes and intimidation through detention, abductions of officials and ordinary citizens, illegal investigations and intimidation, illegal arrests and convictions for organizing meetings and expressing disagreement with Tiraspol’s decisions, incitement to hatred against Chisinau, unlawful impersonation of the state authorities, illegal imprisonment and inhuman and degrading treatment, illegal convictions for crossing the administrative line under the pretext of crossing the border, restricting the free movement, restricting the benefit of medical services chosen by the person, preventing doctors from work or traveling to work, provocation to crime, enlistment in separatist and illegal military or paramilitary structures, etc.

Thus the most common methods used by the alleged structures from the Transnistrian region are: intimidation, persecution, illegal expulsion, illegal imprisonment, enforcement of illegal justice, goading to crime, incitement to hatred and social division, illegal investigations and sanctions.

With reference to the most recent individual cases, as we mentioned at the last Permanent Council meeting, a police officer, A. Amarfi was abducted on 7 and 8 October 2020. But apart from this case a civil servant A. Puris and two citizens, V. Menzarari and V. Glijin were abducted by the “MGB/KGB” officers in Tiraspol, they were imprisoned and charged with alleged illegal actions against the unrecognized Transnistrian state, being subjected to inhuman treatment. Their families and relatives were intimidated, the persons mentioned above were illegally raided by the so-called structures from Tiraspol, illegally deprived of personal properties, forbidden to communicate with the constitutional authorities, deprived of the access to a lawyer and medical care services. Two people were allowed to go home, with prohibition to leave the Transnistrian region and to communicate with the constitutional authorities, while the other two (V. Menzarari and V. Glijin) are still missing.

A violation of the right to move freely within their own country and the right to property is being committed against a number of Moldovan citizens and residents of the Dubasari district and Corjova village, who received from the illegal “MGB/KGB” structures written notifications regarding “expulsion and ban on entering their locality for three years”, as “undesirable persons”. One of the persons, namely I. Coțofană, is deprived of the right to property and its use, being forced to stay in another locality.

These persons expressed their disagreement over the illegal check points unilaterally installed by Tiraspol and the impediment to free movement, because of which they have been declared by the “MGB/KGB” structures as undesirable persons and having been issued “MGB/KGB expulsion notifications”.

A civic activist Gh. Ciorba who expressed his disagreement over the decisions made by the de facto authorities from Tiraspol in relation to the freedom of movement, after expressing the protest was suppressed by the Transnistrian militia, he was detained and imprisoned, being charged with “extremism”.

In August 2020 the security structures of the regime in Tiraspol abducted and illegally imprisoned citizen R. Lomaca in Hlinaia penitentiary, for crossing the administrative line, near the city of Camenca, subjecting him to inhuman and degrading treatment. The state of his health is unsatisfactory, he is being impeded in having access to a lawyer or doctor. Likewise, in August 2020 citizen C. Mamontov returning home (to the Transnistrian region) from abroad, was abusively taken down from the bus, abducted and illegally detained. Mamontov and his partner were subjected to inhuman acts of intimidation.

In May 2020 the so-called law enforcement structures of the Tiraspol regime illegally prosecuted Mr. O. Carp incriminating him of fraud and forgery of documents.

Mr. L. Calic is being prosecuted illegally and charged with “extremism” for publishing media brochures that are not accepted by the *de facto* structures of Transnistria.

Since May this year the Tiraspol regime restricted Mr. S. Berezovschi’s travel to work and visiting his family, thus this person is being forcefully separated from his family.

In April 2020, the Tiraspol regime forced M. Cojocaru to join the illegal military structures in the Transnistrian region, under the threat of being sentenced.

Also in April 2020, as a consequence of the creation of an online application and platform on Viber for expressing free opinions, citizens B. Babaian and S. Tuboltoc were abducted and imprisoned by the regime in Tiraspol.

Since 2018 Mr. O. Horjan has been illegally detained and convicted under the accusation of having organized a rally against the Transnistrian structures. As a result of cruel treatments and different methods of pressure applied by the Transnistrian regime, the health situation of Mr. Horjan has worsened and his access to doctors is constantly refused. Another person, Mr. Gh. Kuzmiciov, is being illegally detained, tortured and ill-treated in Tiraspol’s penitentiary since July 2018.

Mr. Chairperson,

In March 2020, the Republic of Moldova declared state of emergency. Within this context about 95 doctors, nurses and other medical personnel living in the Security Zone were notified that their movement to and from work was restricted. For more than eight months, about 40 doctors who have voluntarily chosen to stay on the right bank of Nistru river with the financial support of donors and work in medical institutions are still forbidden by Tiraspol to move freely.

Tiraspol introduced the “notification and prohibition system” and has been allowing the managers of the eight Latin script schools to access regularly, once a month, the right bank to pick up their salaries. Under such circumstances, illegal barriers have been created

for civil servants and students who benefit from state medical insurance to access a doctor, pharmacy or use other state services.

As a consequence of the restrictions on freedom of movement, the Moldovan citizens, including citizens of other states are not able to receive necessary acts of civil status, birth and death certificates issued by the constitutional authorities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Taking into account the international and European standards in the field of human rights protection and also the political and diplomatic tools which could be applied by various international actors, particularly leverages at the disposal of mediators and observers in the 5+2 format, we consider it necessary to enforce a multidimensional approach that will definitely contribute to an improvement of the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region and help moving things to normality.

In the same vein, we call on a more active involvement of the mediators and observers in the 5+2 format in order to strengthen their mediation efforts in the field of human rights protection in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova which will constitute a step forward in the confidence-building and improvement of the negotiation environment.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. I thank you.



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**1285th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(g)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to begin by informing the participating States that, as of yesterday, the indiscriminate shelling of Stepanakert by the Azerbaijani armed forces has continued. Furthermore, a video showing the execution of unarmed prisoners of war by the Azerbaijani military has emerged. We will present evidence of this war crime in due course.

Now well into the third week of the violent war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, it is already evident that the planned blitzkrieg has failed. It is also safe to assume that Azerbaijan would not have started this war in the first place, had it not been for the full military and political support and engagement of Turkey along with the foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups it has been sponsoring.

On the day after our last Permanent Council meeting, that is, on 9 October, upon the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan held extensive talks lasting around 11 hours. The Foreign Ministers agreed on establishing a humanitarian truce and issued a joint statement to that effect. We believed that these developments raised the hope that there would be at least a short reprieve from this bloody war. The Armenian Government and the Armenian people were cautiously optimistic in that regard. They knew from ample experience that agreement by Azerbaijan on something at the negotiating table means next to nothing, as such agreements in the past have so often been repudiated subsequently.

Unfortunately, we were proven right. The armed attacks along the entire line of contact continued unabated. Despite the announced truce, the northern, southern, south-eastern, and eastern directions of the line of contact were constantly shelled by the Azerbaijani military using missiles, heavy artillery, unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UAVs) and, in recent days, combat aircrafts as well. In addition to the shelling, the Azerbaijani forces carried out multiple offensive ground operations using armoured vehicles and deploying large numbers of troops and foreign terrorist fighters. On October 13 alone, the Azerbaijani Air Force with the backing and support provided by the Turkish Air Force, which, among other things, has been providing air control and intelligence information – carried out 36 combat missions.

The Azerbaijani armed forces continued to shell civilian settlements in Artsakh too, the humanitarian truce notwithstanding. The capital Stepanakert and the cities of Shushi, Martakert, Askeran, Martuni and Hadrut were all under constant fire. Moreover, on October 10, just before the truce came into effect, an Azerbaijani special operations unit infiltrated the city of Hadrut, where the head of the local self-government and a number of residents defended the civilian population against this assault for several hours. Unfortunately, there were five civilian casualties among the inhabitants, including a young disabled man and his mother.

Yesterday, the Azerbaijani armed forces targeted a hospital in the north-eastern direction in which civilians as well as wounded military personnel were being treated. There have been reports of casualties. This latest attack by Azerbaijan is yet another war crime and violation of international humanitarian law, which explicitly prohibits the targeting of hospitals.

These attacks were indiscriminate and pursued one sole purpose – to inflict as much damage as possible, not least by killing civilians.

The civilian population and infrastructure in Artsakh have been severely affected by the Azerbaijani-Turkish aggression. According to the second report of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Artsakh, as of 13 October, 31 civilians had been killed and 106 wounded; moreover, 6,700 immovable assets, 640 movable assets and 1,110 public infrastructure facilities, including schools and kindergartens, and industrial facilities had been damaged or destroyed. These numbers do not include the casualties and the damage from the attack on the hospital that I have just mentioned.

Furthermore, tens of thousands of children, women, elderly people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are constantly facing security threats and psychological terror. They are being deprived of basic rights and resources, such as food, health care and education.

To illustrate the scale of the bombardments and shelling of civilian settlements and infrastructure, I shall cite just one example: the sapper teams of the State Emergency Service of the Republic Artsakh found 673 unexploded Turkish and Israeli-made rockets, cluster and other combat munitions in the capital Stepanakert alone.

I must also mention here that, from 27 September onwards, Azerbaijan has been periodically attacking the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia as well. The last such incident occurred yesterday, when the Azerbaijani armed forces attacked military equipment stationed in the territory of Armenia under the pretext that it supposedly might be used against Azerbaijani cities. Moreover, as the result of a separate Azerbaijani attack on the civilian population in the region of Vardenis in eastern Armenia, a 14-year-old boy was severely wounded: he is now in an intensive care unit at a hospital in Yerevan.

It is clear that through such irresponsible behaviour Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey, is seeking to expand the geographical scope of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by resorting to open aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.



Until now Armenia has not retaliated in order to avoid further escalation. But the Ministry of Defence of Armenia issued a statement yesterday, in which, while reaffirming that no missile, projectile or even a bullet had as yet been fired at Azerbaijan from the territory of Armenia, it declared that the Armenia's armed forces reserve the right to target any military object of Azerbaijan on the basis of the same logic.

Esteemed colleagues,

On 13 October, the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued a further statement following their meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan, in which they called for the humanitarian truce to be respected and for a ceasefire verification mechanism to be established.

The introduction of a verification mechanism, which Azerbaijan opposes, will help in monitoring and maintaining the ceasefire. This is not the first time we have pointed to the need for such a mechanism. Given the almost daily allegations by Azerbaijan regarding the purported violation of the truce by Armenia and Artsakh, we believe that now is the right time to start working on a verification mechanism. There have been many relevant proposals. Such a mechanism should have been established a long time ago, but Azerbaijan has been rejecting the very idea all along.

The international community has not only continued but, I would say, intensified its appeals for the cessation of hostilities. We should like once again to express our gratitude to our international partners for their firm position, which echoes Armenia's conviction that there can be no military solution to the conflict and that only a negotiated settlement will be sustainable and lasting. We wish to thank the Co-Chair countries for their continuous engagement and efforts to resuscitate the peace process without any preconditions.

However, Armenia has repeatedly stated in the past that in order to have a meaningful dialogue and negotiation process we must, first and foremost, stop the war in Nagorno-Karabakh and, secondly, remove any possibility of the use or threat of force from the equation altogether. Unfortunately, neither of these conditions is close to being fulfilled at present.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past 18 days, Azerbaijan has been using the whole military arsenal at its disposal – something that, as I have already said, would not have been possible without Turkey's support and involvement. As of 15 October, the Defence Army of Artsakh has destroyed 180 unmanned aerial vehicles, 16 combat helicopters, 20 fighter jets, 546 armoured vehicles and 4 multiple launch rocket systems. I am no military expert, but the deployment of such large quantities of heavy military equipment of an exclusively offensive nature is unprecedented and clearly testifies to the intention of the Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders to wage an all-out war against the people of Artsakh.

The active engagement of Turkey in the hostilities becomes increasingly evident with each day that passes. We all remember perfectly well how the Azerbaijani and Turkish delegations here vehemently denied Armenia's assertion about the stationing of Turkish F-16 fighter jets in Azerbaijan and their combat deployment to provide air support to the

Azerbaijani armed forces. (The two delegations were echoing the same denials made at the high political level in Baku.) Subsequently, in the face of irrefutable evidence of F-16 jets being based at Ganja airport, we have seen how the Azerbaijani President was forced to publicly acknowledge the presence of these Turkish warplanes in his country.

Turkish F-16 fighter jets have been providing air support and backing for Azerbaijani Su-25 fighter jets and combat drones in aerial attacks including against cities and villages of Artsakh. As already mentioned, in one day alone they carried out 36 combat missions, which attests to the intensity of the air combat operations.

Apart from providing military support, Turkey continues to be actively engaged in the political decision-making in Baku. In fact, Azerbaijan has become a proxy State and is not in a position to take decisions without the consent of Ankara. On returning to Baku from Moscow, where he had agreed to a humanitarian truce, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan received a call from his Turkish counterpart, whereupon he immediately stated that “conditions for implementing the humanitarian ceasefire are currently missing” and revoked his own earlier agreement to a ceasefire. Last week, we also saw how the Turkish leadership, in spite of the Moscow statement on a humanitarian truce and numerous efforts of international mediators, continued to instigate Azerbaijan to carry on its military offensive. It may therefore be safely assumed that today Turkey has become the main obstacle to the cessation of hostilities.

I wish to draw the esteemed delegations’ attention to the fact that Turkey yesterday closed its airspace for the transit of humanitarian flights to Armenia.

The irrefutable fact of Turkey’s direct involvement in the hostilities has once again been acknowledged by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). To recap: on 6 October, the ECHR, upon request by the Government of Armenia, decided to apply interim measures against Turkey in respect of Article 1 (right to life) and Article 3 (prohibition of torture) of the European Convention on Human Rights. On 7 October, the Government of Turkey asked the ECHR to rescind its decision. Yesterday, the ECHR, having examined the objections raised by the Turkish Government and taking into account the serious and escalating nature of the conflict, ruled that it “does not find any reason to amend its decision or to lift any part of the interim measure previously indicated”.

We have already spoken extensively about Turkey’s political and military objectives, which the Turkish leadership is hoping to achieve by means of Azerbaijan, and I should not have to repeat myself. We have already pointed out how the Azerbaijani people became victims in the hands of Azerbaijani and Turkish ruling elite and have to pay a high price in terms of lost lives in order to cement the authoritarian rule of the Aliyev’s family and to advance the Turkish ruling elite’s ambitions of reviving the Ottoman Empire.

Mr. Chairperson,

I should now like to refer to another specific aspect of this war against Artsakh, namely the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters in the hostilities on the side of Azerbaijan. According to various reports, there are around 4,000 terrorist fighters on the ground taking part in the fighting. As of 5 October, the death of 107 such fighters had been confirmed.

When this delegation first referred to reports of Turkey's recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists from Syria and Libya and their subsequent transfer to Azerbaijan, both the Azerbaijani and Turkish delegations, once again echoing their bosses in the capitals, vehemently denied what they described as "unfounded accusations" by Armenia. However, in the last three weeks these reports have been confirmed by numerous accounts coming from the terrorists themselves, as well as by intelligence sources and journalists. We have seen several relevant videos disseminated on social media and the Internet. Apart from a financial incentive, another motive has also emerged: these terrorists are willing to fight Turkey's battles in order to return the favour. It is indeed a most dangerous development that an OSCE participating State should be commanding the loyalty of terrorist and jihadist groups, who are willing to do its bidding. It is fair to say that, through its recruitment scheme, Turkey is today financing terrorists and contributing to the proliferation of terrorist groups and terrorist fighters into various regions. Thanks to their sense of loyalty, these groups are becoming a proxy army that Turkey can deploy in those parts of the world where the open and direct involvement of its armed forces might raise eyebrows. Syria, Libya and now the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone – where, one wonders, will they be sent next?

It is deplorable, to put it mildly, that two participating States of the Organization and Member States of the Council of Europe are openly, unapologetically and without hesitation recruiting and deploying foreign terrorist fighters within the area of responsibility of the OSCE – in stark defiance of all international norms and principles, let alone the values that they claim to share with the civilized world. The fact is that the peoples of Artsakh and Armenia are today fighting against international terrorism – against States that do not shy from using terrorist and jihadist fighters.

We would like to see the international community renouncing this behaviour more forcefully and in a clearly addressed manner. We would like to see the adoption of more targeted measures that would force Turkey and Azerbaijan to abandon their heinous policies.

Mr. Chairperson,

With this latest offensive or, rather, all-out war against Artsakh and its people, Azerbaijan has proved beyond any doubt that Artsakh can never under any circumstances be part of Azerbaijan. Only international recognition of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination and of their subsequent independence can provide the necessary political and legal framework for ensuring their safety and security. We call on all OSCE participating States to consider this matter while taking into account all the horrendous consequences of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan with the support and engagement of Turkey and the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters.

I have already stated on previous occasions that we are raising this current issue for the attention of 54 participating States.

We see no added value in engaging in lengthy hypothetical discussions with either Turkey or Azerbaijan – countries that are openly supporting terrorists and jihadists. That would be a waste of time. I think that most participating States will agree that there is no point in talking to countries that seek to resolve problems exclusively by force and that use foreign terrorist fighters to fight their battles for them.

Thank you.



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**1285th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(h)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

I thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE for raising this current issue.

Proceeding from the principles of humanity and in line with the provisions of international humanitarian law, Azerbaijan responded positively to the appeal by the Russian Federation for a humanitarian ceasefire to be established to allow the return of the remains of the dead and the release of prisoners of war. Such a ceasefire was duly agreed on at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia held in Moscow on 10 October with the mediation of the Russian Federation.

It is utterly deplorable that, despite this agreement, the Armenian armed forces immediately violated the ceasefire and continued their direct and indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population and infrastructure in areas of Azerbaijan along the front line. This is a gross violation of Armenia's obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The declaration on a humanitarian ceasefire agreed on by Armenia and Azerbaijan contains a number of important provisions, which our delegation would like to highlight.

First, it should be noted that this declaration was adopted amid persistent attempts by Armenia to change the negotiating format by trying to introduce the unlawful puppet regime it has established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan as a party to the negotiations.

In this regard, the reaffirmation by Armenia and Azerbaijan in this declaration that the negotiating format remains unchanged effectively puts an end to Armenia's demands to change the format and bring the unlawful puppet regime to the negotiating table. The negotiations are conducted between Armenia and Azerbaijan as parties to the conflict in line with the Helsinki (1992) and Budapest (1994) decisions.

Let me remind that the current format of the OSCE Minsk Group was established by the Helsinki Additional Meeting of the CSCE Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in March 1992. The Minsk Conference was designed as "an ongoing forum for negotiations

towards a peaceful settlement of the crisis on the basis of the principles, commitments and provisions of the CSCE”. The Budapest Summit decision of 1994 strongly endorsed the mediation efforts of the Minsk Group and expressed appreciation for the efforts of its individual members. The Budapest Summit established the institution of co-chairmanship of the Minsk Conference “to ensure a common and agreed basis for negotiations and to realize full co-ordination in all mediation and negotiation activities”.

On the basis of the OSCE decisions and their mandate, the Co-Chairs are meant to be guided in their work by the principles and norms of the OSCE, the relevant CSCE/OSCE decisions (including the decisions adopted by the CSCE Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 24 March 1992 and, in particular, the Budapest Summit decision) and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Deviation from this established framework of negotiations has dealt the entire peace process a severe blow, and we expect Armenia to draw lessons from the current situation and refrain from such attempts in future.

Secondly, the declaration stipulates that Armenia and Azerbaijan should start substantive negotiations on the basis of core settlement principles in order to achieve soonest peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Armenian leadership’s lack of political will to engage in negotiations on substantive issues in good faith and without preconditions over the past two years, along with its extremely provocative and bellicose statements, has undermined the conflict settlement process and led to the situation we are faced with today. Armenian senior officials publicly denounced their adherence to the logic and principles that for years underlain the OSCE Minsk Group-led negotiation process. In particular, they publicly rejected the step-by-step approach to settlement of the conflict, whose first stage involves eliminating the major consequences of the conflict – starting with the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This is the foundation for the conflict resolution.

The core settlement principles referred to in the declaration are reflected in the relevant OSCE decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions, and also in the Helsinki Final Act, all of which together provide the political and legal framework for resolution of the conflict. We expected that the renewed commitment by Armenia to substantive negotiations on this basis would translate into concrete actions and progress in the negotiation process.

However, Armenia’s rejection of the proposal by Azerbaijan to include in the declaration a call for negotiations to be launched immediately, along with recent statements by the Armenian Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, raises questions about Armenia’s true intentions and willingness to resolve the conflict peacefully. The hopes for renewed efforts aimed at the soonest settlement of the conflict have faded following the remarks made yesterday by Armenia’s Prime Minister. He openly rejected the current framework of negotiations, which is based on the core settlement principles, describing it as “unacceptable” to Armenia. I would remind you that these very core settlement principles were endorsed by the Armenian Foreign Minister five days ago in Moscow as the basis for resolution of the conflict. It is obvious that this stated position by the Armenian leadership demonstrates that this country is not willing to seize the opportunity to engage constructively in negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict.

Armenia's irresponsible attitude must be addressed by the international community, in particular the OSCE and Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, since it leaves no room for any meaningful negotiation with the current Armenian Government.

The current situation is a watershed in the conflict settlement process. Those delegations that have so often argued that there was no military solution to the conflict have been proved wrong. It is Azerbaijan's counteroffensive, conducted in line with its right to self-defence, that has changed the status quo, which Azerbaijan and the Co-Chair countries have for years been referring to as unsustainable and dangerous. Considerable territories of Azerbaijan have now been liberated from unlawful occupation. The so-called "line of contact" does not exist any more. The determination and courage displayed by the Azerbaijani armed forces have demonstrated that Azerbaijan is not prepared to tolerate the violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that it will never reconcile with the occupation of its territories. The aggression by Armenia and its military consequences do not represent a solution and will never produce the political outcome so desired by Armenia.

A military solution is not – and has never been – the preferred option for Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has consistently stated that the current status quo and tensions along the front line do not serve its interests, and that it is the most interested party in the soonest political settlement of the conflict. The victims of the ceasefire violations are primarily Azerbaijani civilians living in areas near the front line. The primary reason for the ongoing conflict and, consequently, for the rise in tensions is Armenia's unlawful occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.

However, our plea for the conflict to be resolved peacefully fell on deaf ears. The irresponsible and bellicose statements from the Armenian leadership and its systematic policy aimed at consolidating the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by altering the demographic, cultural and physical character of these territories failed to elicit an appropriate reaction and condemnation by the OSCE and the wider international community. In view of these provocative actions, repeated calls for the ceasefire to be observed and pronouncements about there being no military solution can only be described as appeasing the aggressor.

Such a policy of appeasement and putting the aggressor and the aggrieved on the same footing can in no way facilitate a political settlement of the conflict. On the contrary, it has produced the opposite effect by contributing to Armenia's growing sense of impunity and permissiveness and encouraging it to maintain its unconstructive position in the negotiations, thereby leading to the situation we are facing now.

As the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, stated in his address to the nation on 9 October, by agreeing to a humanitarian ceasefire Azerbaijan is giving Armenia a final opportunity to resolve the conflict peacefully through negotiations and to withdraw peacefully from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. But Armenia, the Co-Chair countries and other participating States should not take Azerbaijan's goodwill for granted.

Now that the first phase of the military operation is over, we need to take a sober look at the Minsk process. The failure of the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs to resolve the conflict over the past 28 years calls for an in-depth review and evaluation of the process. In that regard, we should like to underline the following:

First, one thing is clear: there can be no more business as usual. The assumptions that have been guiding the Co-Chairs in their work for years have not worked. Neither the situation of unprecedented calm along the front line since at least 2018, nor the atmosphere that they claimed was conducive to substantive talks, has translated into meaningful substantive negotiations and progress on resolution of the conflict.

Secondly, a ceasefire and any humanitarian and confidence-building measures cannot be a substitute for political agreement on cessation of the armed conflict. A ceasefire can hardly be sustainable if no substantive negotiations towards resolution of the conflict are conducted and if no progress is achieved on that score. Armenia is not complying with the recently declared humanitarian ceasefire, and it is clear that a full ceasefire will not lead to substantive negotiations either. By insisting on a full ceasefire and on working out the details of the associated verification mechanism, Armenia is trying to escape from substantive negotiations and prolong the situation.

Thirdly, holding talks for the sake of talks is not an option. Azerbaijan has stated at the highest level that it will not imitate negotiations. Substantive, results-oriented negotiations to achieve soonest, I repeat, soonest resolution of the conflict must be launched immediately without any preconditions, including those related to modalities of a humanitarian ceasefire. Attempts to set preconditions for negotiations or to link the resumption of these to unrelated matters must be vigorously condemned by those States and international organizations that have been calling for the resumption of substantive negotiations without delay.

Fourthly, it is necessary to clarify the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the work of the Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs, which should have implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and OSCE decisions at its core. This should also be reflected in a concrete agenda for structured substantive negotiations, whose first stage must address the consequences of the conflict. This should include a timetable of the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as demanded by the United Nations Security Council resolutions and OSCE decisions.

Fifthly, Azerbaijan has stated on a number of occasions that it will not agree to any humanitarian or confidence-building measure that has the potential to consolidate the unlawful occupation of its territories by Armenia. Modalities of the ceasefire, including humanitarian and verification measures, should be built into a timetable for monitoring and verifying not only the ceasefire but also the withdrawal of forces, the return of internally displaced persons and the provision of security for the returning Azerbaijani population. The OSCE Budapest Summit decision stipulates that a possible peacekeeping operation, subject to the consent of the parties to the conflict, will be multinational and will be “organized on the basis of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992 and in a manner fully consistent with the Charter of the United Nations”. Chapter III of the Helsinki Document stipulates that “[p]eacekeeping activities could be used, *inter alia*, to supervise and help maintain ceasefires, to monitor troop withdrawals, to support the maintenance of law and order, to provide humanitarian and medical aid and to assist refugees”. Any peacekeeping option in the present context should, therefore, reflect the multidimensional methodologies and internationally recognized standards that are applied in current peacekeeping operations. In line with Chapter III of the Helsinki Document issues related to deployment of a verification mission, as well as composition of such a mission, are subject to the consent of the parties.



Sixthly, the Minsk Group should play its part in resolution of the conflict. As a first step, convening a high-level meeting of the Minsk Group in the coming weeks would help to launch the negotiations and ensure that the OSCE continues to have ownership of the peace process.

The Republic of Azerbaijan remains committed to resolution of the conflict by political means on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), along with the relevant OSCE decisions, which provide legal and political framework for the conflict settlement. Resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. Azerbaijan considers no political solution to the conflict beyond the aforementioned framework, and it participates in the settlement process based on this understanding.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(i)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its consequences as well as situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the reporting period since the last meeting of the Permanent Council on 8 October.

It is utterly deplorable that despite the agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire, agreed during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia in Moscow on 10 October with the mediation of the Russian Federation, the armed forces of Armenia continued direct and indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects in Azerbaijan along the front line in a gross violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It is apparent that Armenia's alleged support for and adherence to the ceasefire is nothing other than utter falsehood and smokescreen. No doubt, Armenia's objective is not to save lives and resolve the conflict peacefully, but to prepare for a new aggression under the disguise of a ceasefire.

Thus, immediately after the establishment of a ceasefire, the armed forces of Armenia opened artillery fire on Aghdam and Tartar districts of Azerbaijan. A few hours later, Armenian armed forces tried to launch an offensive in the direction of Hadrut and Jabrayil, in an attempt to recapture these territories, which were liberated from the Armenian occupation.

A medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the shooting by the Armenian troops of a sanitary medical vehicle with a visible distinctive sign, which was collecting the remains of the Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovushan.

The desperate attempts of Armenia's armed forces to reverse the losses and defeat of the Armenian armed forces on the ground continue to date.

It is particularly disturbing that right after the announcement of humanitarian ceasefire, on the night of 11 October, Ganja, the second-largest city in Azerbaijan, came under missile attack. The city is situated approximately 40 kilometres away from the front line and 72 kilometres from the missile launch point. came under rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces. It has been established that "Scud" ballistic missile was launched

from the Vardenis district of Armenia. As a result, ten civilians were killed, including four women, and 34 civilians, including 16 women and six children were injured. Besides that, ten apartment buildings and more than 100 other civilian facilities were extensively damaged in the city. This attack will go down in the history books as the first instance when a participating State used a “Scud” ballistic missile to bombard the civilian objects on the territory of another participating State (Exhibit 1).

The same day, the city of Mingachevir, also situated far away from the front line and 104 kilometres from the border with Armenia, was subjected to missile attack by the armed forces of Armenia. The missile fell in close vicinity of the building of the Azerbaijan Thermal Power Plant, which is located in the Mingachevir Water Hydropower Complex, the largest water reservoir in the South Caucasus (Exhibit 2).

On 12 and 13 October, the Tartar, Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Goranboy and Tartar districts of Azerbaijan were shelled by missiles and artillery from various directions, causing civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian and public property. Since the morning of 14 October artillery fire by the Armenia’s armed forces continued against the Tartar city of Azerbaijan. As a result of this shelling, one civilian was killed, six were wounded (Exhibit 3).

In the morning of 15 October 2020, as a result of deliberate attack of Armenian armed forces on a graveyard in Tartar city of Azerbaijan four civilians were killed and four wounded (Exhibit 4).

As a result of direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia against the cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan, as of 16 October 2020, 47 civilians, including children, women and elderly, were killed, 222 civilians were wounded, 1,669 private houses, 84 apartment buildings, 301 other civilian objects and 37 schools (12 in Tartar, 11 in Aghdam, five in Ganja, four in Fuzuli, two in Goranboy, one in Barda and one in Aghjabadi) were either destroyed or damaged (Exhibit 5).

Hastily organized covert arms supply to Armenia from the Commonwealth of Independent States and Middle Eastern countries prove that Armenia is preparing for new offensive operations. Admission by the Armenian side of deployment of so-called “volunteers” to the combat operations attests to Armenia’s recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries. Despite ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, significant increase is being observed in flights to Armenia. This includes both regular flights to Armenia, as well as from those places where there have never been flight to Armenia. Via these routes mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters are brought to Armenia and then deployed to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in order to fight against Azerbaijan and organize terrorist activities against Azerbaijani civilians. Over the last days, four flights have been conducted from Suleymaniyah (Iraq) with Boeing-757 and Airbus-320 aircrafts. Given the capacity of these planes, it can be assumed that at least 1,200 mercenaries have already been brought from Iraq only. Moreover, over the recent days, flights have been conducted to Armenia from Cabo Verde, an island in the Atlantic, where perhaps no one ever heard about Armenia. In most cases, the Government of Armenia and Armenian diaspora organizations organize special campaigns, including fundraising and ticket sales and define assembly points for the mercenaries.

We reiterate once again that the OSCE participating States, in whose territories these activities are carried out or financed also bear responsibility and are under the obligation to prevent mobilization of foreign terrorist fighters and prosecute the travel or attempted travel abroad for terrorist purposes. In that regard, it is critical that the respective authorities of OSCE participating States, origin or transit, exercise due diligence in light of the increased intensity of travel by their nationals and residents to Armenia and undertake necessary preventive border control measures, as well as take all required steps to prevent their territories from being used for supporting or financing terrorist activities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's attacks directed at civilians, the murder and injuring of civilians and attacks that have caused indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian objects in Azerbaijan amount to war crimes under international humanitarian law, for which Armenia bears liability and which also incur individual criminal responsibility of the perpetrators.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan confirmed that Azerbaijan's armed forces do not conduct offensive operations and observe the humanitarian ceasefire. However, Azerbaijan has stated on numerous occasions that a ceasefire must be respected and implemented fully and unreservedly by both Armenia and Azerbaijan. One cannot demand to abide by a ceasefire to the extent it fits its interests, but ignore its violations when it is not. Azerbaijan remains committed to the terms of the humanitarian ceasefire, but will not sit idle and watch as Armenia continues to barrage the cities of Azerbaijan with ballistic missiles and artillery fire. The armed forces of Azerbaijan will continue taking adequate and proportionate measures to neutralize the legitimate military targets, including stronghold battle positions, in the exercise of right of self-defence and in full compliance with international humanitarian law. This was the case with the destruction on 14 October of operational-tactical rocket system of Armenia deployed in the border area near the occupied Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan to launch airstrike against civilian objects in Azerbaijan (Exhibit 6). There was no civilian infrastructure at the points where the missiles were brought to a state of readiness to deliver fire strikes.

We have continuously been drawing the attention of the OSCE community, in particular its Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), to blatant and deliberate violations by Armenia of its commitments and obligations under OSCE politico-military instruments – specifically by illegally deploying its armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, by taking advantage of the fragmentation of the zone of application of confidence- and security-building measures regimes to conceal its military potential from these arms control mechanisms, and by engaging in illegal massive military build-up in these territories. We have presented on multiple occasions undeniable facts testifying to these egregious violations and repeatedly warned against the adverse effects of Armenia's outright disregard of its commitments and obligations. The recent counter-offensive operation and the amount of weapons and hardware destroyed by our armed forces during the two weeks of active military operations revealed the scale of militarization of the occupied territories, which pursued the obvious goal to consolidate the unlawful occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. Thus, as of 14 October Azerbaijani armed forces destroyed around 250 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 420 artillery pieces, multiple rocket launch systems and mortars, 89 air defence systems, two S-300 anti-aircraft missile system, 16 command control and command observation posts, eight ammunition depots and 168 military vehicles (Exhibit 7).

Thirty-three tanks of the armed forces of Armenia deployed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were captured. To compare, in the latest annual exchange of military information within the Vienna Document and Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Armenia declared to possess 145 tanks and 216 armoured combat vehicles only.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and make every possible effort to prevent harm to the civilian population, acting in accordance with international humanitarian law. On the contrary, Armenia's actions are aimed at causing indiscriminate or disproportionate harm not only to Azerbaijani civilians, but also to the Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin residing in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. While, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan appealed on numerous occasions to the civilian population in the occupied territories to stay away from the combat zone, the Armenian side introduced restrictions on free movement in the occupied territories and prohibited male population of conscript age to leave this territory. Obviously, Armenia intends to use them both as manpower to continue aggression against the civilian population and infrastructure inside Azerbaijan and to use them as human shield, putting them in harm's way. Moreover, the armed forces of Azerbaijan reported horrifying scenes from the territories liberated from occupation, where perished Armenian military servicemen were found with chained legs, apparently, not to leave the military positions.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

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Annex 9

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**1285th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 3(i)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I thank my Azerbaijani colleague for the update. I also thank him for his words regarding my country and the brotherly relations between our countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

It was always Armenia that engaged in new aggressions – recently in Tovuz, now along the contact line. Given this, Azerbaijan reacted. Coming under pressure, Armenia started to attack civilians.

During the armed conflict that started on 27 September, Azerbaijan has shown Armenia and the whole world that it has the ability and the self-confidence to reclaim its territories – its territories that have been under occupation for almost 30 years.

In this process, calls for ceasefire were made with humanitarian considerations. Consequently, Azerbaijan gave Armenia a last opportunity to withdraw from the territories it has occupied.

A ceasefire was declared between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the front line to take effect on 10 October at 12 noon local time. This ceasefire was declared on humanitarian grounds. This was an important first step. However, it could have not replaced a lasting solution.

From the very outset, Turkey has always underlined one thing: Turkey will only support those solutions which are acceptable to Azerbaijan.

Mr. Chairperson,

Even after this humanitarian ceasefire Armenia continued to attack civilians.

We strongly condemn the rocket attacks of Armenia on Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan on 11 October in violation of the humanitarian ceasefire. I would remind you that Ganja is 100 kilometres away from the conflict zone.

In the attack an apartment building was hit. The attack caused ten civilian deaths and wounded more than 30.

This attack is yet another example of the provocations of Armenia. It seeks to widen the conflict outside of the Azerbaijani territories under occupation.

At the same time, this attack once again shows that Armenia does not shy away from violating international humanitarian law. Armenia's only goal is to continue its illegitimate occupation. Armenia does not even understand the meaning of a ceasefire.

Armenia's aggressive actions are not surprising. They are a clear manifestation of its well-known occupying and offensive mentality. It is time for the international community to say "stop" to this lawlessness.

We strongly condemn the continuing attacks by Armenia against civilian settlements in Azerbaijan. As a result of Armenia's latest attack on the city of Terter yesterday, four civilians lost their lives and four others were wounded while they were attending a funeral ceremony.

Armenia continues to disregard the humanitarian ceasefire declared on 10 October. Showing no traits of humanity, Armenia does not even let our Azerbaijani sisters and brothers lay their loved ones to rest.

With this latest attack, Armenia has once again demonstrated to the whole world its total disrespect for humanitarian values and laws.

Turkey stands by Azerbaijan as always.

This message was reiterated by President Erdoğan during a speech on Wednesday and likewise by Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu at a press conference on Tuesday after meeting with his distinguished Swedish counterpart Madame Linde.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nagorno-Karabakh region is the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh and the other territories of Azerbaijan are still occupied – despite all relevant decisions. The United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 have not been implemented. OSCE decisions have been disregarded. Azerbaijan has also been bearing a huge humanitarian burden with hundreds of thousands of IDPs.

The only viable solution to the conflict goes through the total withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories in line with international law.

We cannot treat Armenia and Azerbaijan on an equal footing when the former is the occupier and the latter is the occupied party. It is time for the international community to make a distinction between the "aggressor" and the "victim". There must be clear call on Armenia to abandon its expansionism.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, we were yet again obliged to listen to a masterpiece of hypocrisy. The entirety of the statement by one delegation is the product of a smear campaign against Turkey. The “leitmotifs” of the statements we are now hearing week in, week out are very simple: disinformation, distortion and deception. This is the foreign policy style. Also hybrid in its nature.

However, as a result of the developments on the ground, the desperateness of the leadership grows daily. Regrettably, the respective delegation carries this mindset also to the OSCE. Like the invasion on the ground, its discourse in this hall transcends internationally recognized boundaries. The very meaning of dialogue at 57 is being hollowed out. Listening is of course the basic prerequisite for dialogue.

We resolutely reject this discourse and the baseless accusations.

In any case: no matter how longer the chain of disinformation, distortion and deception grows, it will not accomplish its sinister goal. These efforts do not and will not cover up the aggressive actions towards neighbours. They do not and will not cover up the fact that Azerbaijan’s territory has been under occupation for almost 30 years now.

And as I said last week, it is rather ironic: accusations regarding terrorism are coming from a country that has always had an ominous and active relationship with various terrorist groups – terrorist groups that have been targeting Turkey.

It is ironic that a country violating its commitments and obligations under the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is trying to give a lecture.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.





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**1285th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1285, Agenda item 6(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I take the floor to honour the memory of the journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, whose brave voice was silenced when her life was cut short almost three years ago to the day, namely on 16 October 2017.

No journalist should have to be afraid of speaking out and exercising his or her right to freedom of expression, let alone fear being murdered.

The heinous murders of Ms. Caruana Galizia and other journalists in recent years are extreme manifestations of the violence widely perpetrated against journalists across the OSCE area, to which, unfortunately, no country is immune.

The assassination of a journalist is a direct attack on the principles to which we have all committed ourselves and which we have the responsibility to safeguard, namely freedom of expression and the media, democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

It is indeed our collective responsibility to continue striving to ensure a safe space for journalists to carry out their work in, and to uphold freedom of expression and the media. In this regard, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to work tirelessly on the full implementation of the provisions laid down in Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 on the safety of journalists, adopted in Milan in December 2018.

It is also the responsibility of all of us to continue the fight against impunity – a fight to which Malta is fully committed.

Malta is determined to ensure that those involved in the murder of Ms. Caruana Galizia are brought to justice. Criminal proceedings against four individuals, including the alleged mastermind, continue, as do the public inquiry and the magisterial inquiry.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media plays a key role in highlighting violations across the OSCE area and in enhancing the capacity of participating

States to improve their standards in this field. Malta has greatly benefited from the Media Representative's assistance, especially during our legislative reform process, which culminated in the adoption of a very progressive Media and Defamation Act in 2018, whereby the offence of criminal libel was abolished.

Malta calls on all participating States to ensure a swift process for the appointment of a new Media Representative. Malta is committed to continuing to co-operate with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and to assuring the future holder of the post of its unreserved support.