

**Chairmanship: Italy****1198th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 18 October 2018

Opened: 10.10 a.m.  
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.  
Suspended: 4.15 p.m.  
Resumed: 4.30 p.m.  
Closed: 5.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni  
Ambassador L. Fratini

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, Ambassador Jugoslav Jovičić.

Moreover, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, offered condolences to the families of the victims of the attack that occurred in Kerch on 17 October 2018. He also extended condolences to the families of the victims of the recent floods in France.

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESSES BY THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM; THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION, ALSO FOCUSING ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS (VIDEO ADDRESS); AND THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING

INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
MUSLIMS (VIDEO ADDRESS)

Chairperson, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism (CIO.GAL/156/18 Restr.), Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions (CIO.GAL/158/18 OSCE+), Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (CIO.GAL/159/18 OSCE+), 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/1261/18/Rev.1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1243/18), Holy See (PC.DEL/1233/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1262/18 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, United States of America (PC.DEL/1232/18), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1239/18 OSCE+), Canada, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1242/18), Armenia (PC.DEL/1263/18), Moldova (PC.DEL/1237/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria

Agenda item 2:           REPORT BY THE CHIEF OBSERVER OF THE OSCE  
OBSERVER MISSION AT TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS  
ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Chairperson, Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.FR/29/18 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, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1259/18), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1241/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1251/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1248/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1234/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1235/18)

Agenda item 3:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1245/18), 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/1258/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1253/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1249/18 OSCE+), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1236/18)



- (b) *Call for nominations for the position of Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*: Chairperson
- (c) *Issuance of a new vacancy notice for the position of Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova*: Chairperson
- (d) *Briefing on the logistical modalities of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Milan on 6 and 7 December 2018 (MC.INF/2/18 OSCE+)*: Chairperson
- (e) *Conference on “Digital Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area”, to be held on 30 October 2018*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*: Secretary General
- (b) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on 17 October 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (c) *Visit of the Secretary General to Astana on 10 and 11 October 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the “OSCE Focus 2018” conference entitled “The OSCE at a Crossroads: Recognizing and Seizing Opportunities”, held in Geneva on 12 and 13 October 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (e) *Urgency of establishing an IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+), Chairperson
- (f) *Planned visits and meetings of the Secretary General*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/165/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/165/18/Add.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *First anniversary of the murder of journalist and blogger Ms. D. Caruana Galizia*: Malta (Annex), United States of America (also on behalf of Canada) (PC.DEL/1240/18), 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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia and Georgia, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1255/18), Chairperson

- (b) *EU Anti-Trafficking Day, observed on 18 October 2018: Austria*
- (c) *Investigation into the tragedy that occurred in Kerch on 17 October 2018: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1231/18)*
- (d) *Drawing of lots to establish the preliminary order of statements for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be carried out on 1 November 2018: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 1 November 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1198  
18 October 2018  
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

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**1198th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1198, Agenda item 7(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA**

Mr. Chairperson,

On Tuesday, 16 October 2018, we marked the first anniversary of the horrific murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. Daphne's assassination was not only a brutal and heinous crime, but also an assault on freedom of speech. Voices worldwide echoed the strong and unequivocal condemnation expressed by our Prime Minister and the Maltese authorities in connection with this despicable act.

As we remember this very sad day, our thoughts remain with her family and friends who are no doubt still grieving over this senseless act of violence and the terrible loss they have suffered.

Mr. Chairperson,

As reiterated in its official statement, issued on Tuesday, 16 October, the Government of Malta is resolute in its determination to see justice served. Less than 50 days after the horrible act, three persons were arrested and are currently being prosecuted for the execution of the murder. We express our deepest gratitude to the international investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) for their timely response to our Government's invitation and for their valuable continued assistance in ensuring that a thorough and serious investigation is conducted.

While the court continues to hear the compilation of evidence against the three accused, the magistrate in charge of the investigation has already decreed that there are enough grounds for the accused to stand trial by jury. Moreover, the court has denied their multiple requests to be released on bail. The Government is confident that anyone else involved in the murder will be found and brought to justice, and it continues to support efforts by the local and international investigators, as well as by the investigating magistrate, to establish the true facts of the case.

Malta remains fully committed to upholding human rights and the rule of law, as well as to ensuring the protection of journalists and freedom of expression.

The promulgation of the Media and Defamation Act in April 2018 is concrete evidence of this commitment. This Act is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation worldwide. Not only has it eliminated the offence of criminal libel – in whatever form – from Malta’s statute book, but it has also introduced a wide array of reforms serving to increase journalistic freedom.

Allow me to express my country’s gratitude to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Harlem Désir, and to his Office, for the input and recommendations provided during the drafting of this new law, as well as for their continued co-operation and support. We remain willing and committed to continuing our work with Mr. Désir and his Office.

Additionally, our country’s further commitment to ensuring the safety of journalists was reiterated as recently as last month, when Malta co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on the safety of journalists (United Nations document A/HRC/RES/39/6), and we cannot but applaud your intention, Mr. Chairperson, to seek a decision on this very important issue at the Milan Ministerial Council later on this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, Daphne’s name is not the last one inscribed on the list of journalists that have been killed. The sad anniversary we marked two days ago is a stark reminder that we need to work together to protect the freedoms that a democratic society holds out to us. We have a collective responsibility for continuing to ensure the safety of journalists. The Maltese Government remains committed to this overarching objective and to solving this specific case as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.DEC/1306  
18 October 2018

Original: ENGLISH

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**1198th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1198, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1306  
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA  
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to request the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council a draft agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.