
Chairmanship: Albania**1271st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 11 June 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconferencing)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani

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 (SEC.GAL/45/20 OSCE+) (CIO.GAL/73/20/Rev.1 OSCE+).

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

Agenda item 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/688/20), Croatia-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/698/20), United Kingdom, Canada (PC.DEL/690/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/683/20), Turkey (PC.DEL/695/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/694/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/686/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/693/20), Ukraine
- (c) *Violations of freedom of speech by social media platforms in the United States of America:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/687/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/684/20)

- (d) *On the involvement of the United States of America in dual-purpose biological laboratories in Georgia and Ukraine: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/692/20), Ukraine, Georgia, United States of America (PC.DEL/691/20)*

Agenda item 2: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Preparations for the 2020 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), to be held from 23 to 25 June 2020: Chairperson*
- (b) *Second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2020, on “Freedom of expression, media and information”, to be held on 22 and 23 June 2020: Chairperson*
- (c) *OSCE webinar on violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, to be held on 17 June 2020 (CIO.GAL/85/20 OSCE+): Chairperson*
- (d) *1272nd plenary meeting of the Permanent Council, to take place on 18 June 2020: Chairperson*
- (e) *Extension of the appointments of the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova: Chairperson*
- (f) *Ongoing consultations on the extension of appointments and the re-appointment of heads of OSCE institutions: Chairperson*

Agenda item 3: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Distribution to OSCE Secretariat staff members of an inter-office memorandum providing an update on the OSCE’s response to COVID-19: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/79/20 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in a virtual meeting of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group, held on 5 June 2020: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/79/20 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in a virtual coffee briefing on the OSCE’s work with and for young people, held on 3 June 2020: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/79/20 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the OSCE Chairmanship Cyber/ICT Security Day to be held on 15 June 2020: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/79/20 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Thematic briefing by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to be held on 19 June 2020: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/79/20 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Third OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tour, held on 6 June 2020*: Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan) (Annex), Chairperson
- (b) *Annual report on the glorification of Nazism published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/685/20)
- (c) *Parliamentary elections in Croatia, to be held on 5 July 2020*: Croatia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 18 June 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



1271st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1271, Agenda item 4(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA, CYPRUS, GREECE, HUNGARY, KYRGYZSTAN,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SLOVAKIA, TAJIKISTAN,
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UZBEKISTAN)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

This statement is being delivered on behalf of the delegations of Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan, and also on behalf of the Permanent Representative of Romania in his personal capacity.

For three years in a row, committed cyclists from the delegations of participating States, OSCE institutions and the OSCE Secretariat have been contributing to the promotion of trust and co-operation within the Organization by taking part in OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tours.

At the first two such events, in 2018 and 2019, participants took the famous cycle path along the Danube river, specifically the stretch connecting the two closest capitals in Europe – Bratislava and Vienna. In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this year we had to cycle exclusively within the borders of Austria.

Thanks to the strong support from, respectively, the Italian, Slovak and Albanian OSCE Chairmanships, and also thanks to the valuable contributions by the delegations of Austria, Germany and the Central Asian States, the number of participants has steadily increased from one year to the next. The growing interest generated by these tours and the participants' positive feedback testify to the relevance of continuing this humble initiative, the ultimate goal of which is to strengthen connectivity.

The OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tours show that human power and motivation are able to connect people, nations and places. The warm atmosphere of friendship, support and

goodwill felt by everyone during each of these events serves to remind us that it is only by joining efforts that we can overcome common challenges.

We therefore encourage the OSCE Secretariat and the forthcoming Swedish and Polish Chairmanships – and indeed all subsequent Chairmanships – to keep up the tradition of promoting connectivity and co-operation through OSCE Connectivity Bicycle Tours.

We request the Chairmanship to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.