

Chairmanship: Slovakia

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1238th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 26 July 2019

Opened: 1.10 p.m.  
Closed: 1.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE TOPICS FOR THE SECOND PART OF  
THE 2019 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION  
MEETING

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1339 (PC.DEC/1339) on the topics for the second part of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2019 HUMAN  
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1340 (PC.DEC/1340) on the agenda for the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

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1 Includes a correction to the speaker list of agenda item 5.

Agenda item 3:           DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 2019 HUMAN  
DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1341 (PC.DEC/1341) on the dates of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson (Annex 1), Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Norway (Annex 2), Canada (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), Poland

Agenda item 4:           DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE  
2019 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1342 (PC.DEC/1342) on the dates and venue of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Japan (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 5:           DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND  
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2019 OSCE  
ASIAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1343 (PC.DEC/1343) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson (Annex 5), Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Canada (Annex 6), Finland-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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (Annex 7), Norway (PC.DEL/976/19)

Agenda item 6:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 September 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**1238th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairmanship would like to thank all participating States for their efforts in reaching consensus for the adoption of decisions on the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Recalling that more effective multilateralism is an overarching priority of the Slovak Chairmanship, we attach utmost importance also to civil society and the invaluable role, engagement in and contribution to the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments they provide, in order to ensure lasting stability, security and prosperity for our region.

The Slovak Chairmanship is therefore fully committed to provide opportunities for the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in OSCE meetings and activities, as also collectively agreed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992. The above provisions will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence, as per paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Should questions arise concerning the application of paragraph 16, Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992 for the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the Slovak Chairmanship is ready to assume responsibility for possible final decisions on the matter, in line with OSCE documents and decisions and following consultations with interested participating States, in a transparent manner to ensure that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account. Any such possible decision by the Slovak Chairmanship will be limited to and valid only for the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and is without prejudice to possible future participation in OSCE meetings and activities. In closing, the Slovak Chairmanship would also like to thank all participating States for their constructive contributions to the discussion in the Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation at OSCE Events, chaired by Ambassador Luca Fratini, and therefore sees merit in continuing our deliberations also in this format.



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**1238th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the process leading to the decisions made to organize this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), Norway would like to state the following.

As nearly all participating States, and in accordance with historical and current practice, we find that the modalities for OSCE events are to be interpreted to allow the broadest possible participation of civil society. Broad participation of civil society at OSCE events is a specific strength and value of OSCE events. We remain unconvinced that current practice does not adequately implement the OSCE *acquis*.

Norway highly appreciates Ambassador Boháč and his team's serious efforts to find an acceptable solution under very demanding circumstances. We have taken note of the Chair's proposal to take the responsibility of making decisions on the application of paragraph 16, that is on the participation, or non-participation, of specific organizations for specific OSCE events, following transparent discussions with interested States.

Application of paragraph 16 is, or can at least be perceived as, some kind of procedure for surrogate designation of a violent or terrorist organization. Since such application would be made in an organization in which we participate, and that decides by consensus, we would obviously need to be part of the deliberations on application in every instance. Clearly then, deliberations must be transparent and open to all participating States. Norway finds that a decision to deviate from the current practice of allowing for the broadest possible participation in line with the modalities should be the responsibility of the Permanent Council.

The proposed procedures make it clear that any decision to apply paragraph 16 will be valid only for specific organizations for this specific event, without prejudice for neither the concerned organization nor any future event. After serious doubts and thorough consideration, we have found that in the circumstances these procedures can be accepted in this particular instance.

We would 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/1238/Corr.2  
26 July 2019  
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 3

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada welcomes the adoption of these three decisions pertaining to the holding of this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. We congratulate the Slovak Chairmanship, and your human dimension team, on its tireless efforts to achieve this result.

In connection to these decisions, we would like to reiterate our understanding regarding any requests to exclude an individual or organization pursuant to Article IV, Paragraph 16 of the Helsinki Document 1992. As the Chairmanship-in-Office has stated, any such requests will be conveyed to interested parties in a transparent manner prior to the Chairmanship taking any final decision. In order for a participating State to determine whether it considers itself an interested party, we reaffirm our position that the Chairmanship should convey any Paragraph 16 exclusion request to all participating States. All interested States, of which Canada will always consider itself one for such matters, will be consulted by the Chairmanship and be able to share their views and positions regarding the decision to exclude.

In conclusion, the decision to exclude any individual or organization under Paragraph 16 is a very serious matter. Any final decision by the Chairmanship must be transparent.

We would 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/1238/Corr.2  
26 July 2019  
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We thank the Slovak Chairmanship for their statement regarding how they would deal with an invocation of paragraph 16, Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992. It is the understanding of the United States that all consultations surrounding such an invocation will be conducted in a transparent manner. In addition, we consider that an “interested” participating State is any participating State that considers itself interested, of which the United States will always be one. Therefore, it would be the responsibility of the Chairmanship to advise all 57 participating States of a paragraph 16 invocation, allowing any State so inclined to engage in transparent consultations on the matter.

We ask 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**

PC.JOUR/1238/Corr.2  
26 July 2019  
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 5

## **STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairmanship would like to thank all participating States for their efforts in reaching consensus for the adoption of decisions on the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference.

Recalling that more effective multilateralism is an overarching priority of the Slovak Chairmanship, we value the important role played by civil society.

The Slovak Chairmanship is therefore fully committed to provide opportunities for the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in OSCE meetings and activities, as also collectively agreed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992. The above provisions will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence, as per paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Should questions arise concerning the application of paragraph 16, Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992 for the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, the Slovak Chairmanship is ready to assume responsibility for possible final decisions on the matter, in line with OSCE documents and decisions and following consultations with interested participating States, in a transparent manner to ensure that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account. Any such possible decision by the Slovak Chairmanship will be limited to and valid only for the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference and is without prejudice to possible future participation in OSCE meetings and activities. In closing, the Slovak Chairmanship would also like to thank all participating States for their constructive contributions to the discussion in the Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation at OSCE Events, chaired by Ambassador Luca Frattini, and therefore sees merit in continuing our deliberations also in this format.





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

PC.JOUR/1238/Corr.2  
26 July 2019  
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 5

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada welcomes the adoption of the decision pertaining to the Asian Conference. We would like to thank, first and foremost, the Italian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group, as well as the Slovak Chairmanship, for their tireless efforts to achieve this result with the Japanese delegation. We would also like to sincerely thank Japan for generously hosting this conference in Tokyo.

In connection to these decisions, we would like to reiterate our understanding regarding any requests to exclude an individual or organization pursuant to Article IV, Paragraph 16 of the Helsinki Document 1992. As the Chairmanship-in-Office has stated, any such requests will be conveyed to interested parties in a transparent manner prior to the Chairmanship taking any final decision. In order for a participating State to determine whether it considers itself an interested party, we reaffirm our position that the Chairmanship should convey any Paragraph 16 exclusion request to all participating States. All interested States, of which Canada will always consider itself one for such matters, will be consulted by the Chairmanship and be able to share their views and positions regarding the decision to exclude.

In conclusion, the decision to exclude any individual or organization under Paragraph 16 is a very serious matter. Any final decision by the Chairmanship must be transparent.

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

Thank you.

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 5

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Finland, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The EU welcomes the adoption of the decisions related to the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference. We would like to thank the Slovak Chairmanship for all the efforts invested in reaching consensus, including the open and transparent manner in which it has been proceeding. We also thank all the participating States for their constructive approach which allowed for consensus at this late stage.

The European Union stands firmly by the existing consensus-based commitments for civil society participation in human dimension events. As we have said many times before, we believe that broad participation of civil society representatives is of great value to all OSCE events, especially the human dimension events. The open and inclusive character of all these events is what makes them unique and must be maintained, as set out in our commitments (Helsinki Document 1992, Permanent Council Decision No. 476). We need to avoid any action that will unduly limit civil society participation.

Regarding the statements made today by the Slovak Chairmanship, we support the way forward that the Chairmanship has outlined should questions arise concerning the application of paragraph 16, Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992 for the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, and we underline the importance we attach to full transparency throughout this process.

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

The candidate countries North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

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1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



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

PC.DEC/1339  
26 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1339  
TOPICS FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE  
2019 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Decides:

To select the following topics for the second part of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting: “Roma and Sinti”; “Hate Crime”; “Safety of Journalists”.

PC.DEC/1339

26 July 2019

Attachment

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“In joining the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decisions on the dates, venue, agenda and topics of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), the Russian Federation continues to take the position that the topics and organizational modalities of OSCE human dimension events, including the aforementioned HDIM, the annual seminar and the three supplementary meetings, are to be considered as a package.

However, the HDIM and seminar in Warsaw can only formally be held if the Permanent Council adopts the relevant decisions, as provided for in its basic procedural decision – OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 476.

Any attempts to violate the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, which were approved by the Ministerial Council in 2006, are inadmissible. They undermine our Organization’s core consensus rule and the authority of its decision-making bodies, including the Permanent Council, and jeopardize the entire system of OSCE commitments.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day.”



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

PC.DEC/1340  
26 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1340  
AGENDA FOR THE 2019 HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph 9,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

## **AGENDA FOR THE 2019 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

Warsaw, 16 to 27 September 2019

### **Monday, 16 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m.      Opening plenary session
- 1–3 p.m.            Break
- 3–6 p.m.            Working session 1: Fundamental freedoms, including:
- Freedom of expression, free media and information

### **Tuesday, 17 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m.      Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms (continued), including  
address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media:
- Freedom of expression, free media and information
- 1–3 p.m.            Break
- 3–6 p.m.            Working session 3: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels
  - Democratic elections

### **Wednesday, 18 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m.      Working session 4 (specifically selected topic): Safety of journalists
- 1–3 p.m.            Break
- 3–6 p.m.            Working session 5 (specifically selected topic): Safety of journalists

### **Thursday, 19 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m.      Working session 6: Fundamental freedoms (continued), including:

- Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 7: Fundamental freedoms I, including:

- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief

### **Friday, 20 September 2019**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:

- Equal opportunity for women and men
- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality
- Violence against women

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 9: Humanitarian issues and other commitments, including:

- Combating trafficking in human beings
- Refugees and displaced persons
- Persons at risk of displacement

### **Monday, 23 September 2019**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Rule of law I, including:

- Independence of the judiciary
- Democratic law-making
- Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life

1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Rule of law II, including:

- Prevention of torture
- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment
- Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism

**Tuesday, 24 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities:
- Rights of persons belonging to national minorities
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:
- Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination
  - Combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions

**Wednesday, 25 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14 (specifically selected topic): Hate crime
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15 (specifically selected topic): Hate crime

**Thursday, 26 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16 (specifically selected topic): Roma and Sinti
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 17 (specifically selected topic): Roma and Sinti

**Friday, 27 September 2019**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 18: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)
- Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the participation of human rights directors, OSCE ambassadors and heads of OSCE institutions):
- Any other business
  - Closing of the meeting



PC.DEC/1340  
26 July 2019  
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The United States wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

We support the adoption of the agenda for the 2019 HDIM. We note that some usual topics are not included, such as the role of civil society and the right to a fair trial. This does not set a precedent for future HDIM agendas.

We request that this statement be attached to this decision and recorded in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



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

PC.DEC/1341  
26 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1341  
DATES OF THE 2019 HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Decides:

That the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw from 16 to 27 September 2019.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkey:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decisions just adopted on the topics for the second part of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), on the agenda for the 2019 HDIM and on the dates of the 2019 HDIM, the Republic of Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The OSCE, with its comprehensive and co-operative concept of security, is a unique international platform in an era where effective multilateralism becomes increasingly needed.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to the work of the human dimension, which constitutes an indispensable component of the comprehensive security concept of the OSCE. HDIM is a significant event thereof. The participation of representatives of civil society enriches OSCE human dimension meetings. Turkey values their work and contribution to the advancement of the OSCE commitments.

The OSCE, as a security organization intended to serve and advance the security of its participating States, including Turkey, must not offer a platform to the extensions of terrorist organizations. On the contrary, the OSCE has to remain a platform to strengthen our co-operation in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism is a crime against humanity, thus it requires joint action and efforts.

Turkey has made its concerns with the participation of terror affiliates in OSCE human dimension meetings abundantly clear. Turkey has expressed its expectations on this matter on numerous occasions.

The clear rules in Paragraph 16, Decision IV, 1992 Helsinki Document and Permanent Council Decision No. 476 (2002), Annex III, Paragraph 3 must be implemented.

While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the current and previous Chairs of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on the implementation of Paragraph 16 of the said Document, as well as the initial work achieved by the Chair of the Open-Ended Reflection Process, Turkey believes that these efforts need to be redoubled in order to reach a lasting solution as early as possible.

Turkey takes note of the Slovak Chairmanship's statement declaring its readiness to assume responsibility for taking final decisions should questions arise concerning the application of Paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Turkey joins consensus on the three decisions related to the 2019 HDIM with the understanding that the Chairmanship will not allow the participation of persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence to the Meeting. Thus, Turkey assumes that the situation of the years 2017 and 2018 where entities linked to terrorism were allowed to participate in the HDIM will not be repeated again.

Turkey will closely follow the preparations of the 2019 HDIM. If Turkey's legitimate concerns are not addressed in a concrete and satisfactory manner, this would amount to the non-implementation of Paragraph 16 and thus to non-compliance with our shared principles and commitments, particularly those related to the fight against terrorism. Such a situation would further jeopardize the credibility of our organization and undermine the rules and principles of the OSCE.

In that case, Turkey will not hesitate to take any action it deems necessary within the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision and also included in the journal of the day."



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

PC.DEC/1342  
26 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1342**  
**DATES AND VENUE OF THE 2019 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE**

(Tokyo, Japan, 2 and 3 September 2019)

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the offer by Japan to host the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, and further to discussions with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to hold the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference in Tokyo, Japan, on 2 and 3 September 2019.

The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the Conference will be further elaborated in the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and submitted to the Permanent Council for adoption.



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

PC.DEC/1343  
26 July 2019

Original: ENGLISH

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**1238th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1238, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1343**  
**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF**  
**THE 2019 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE**

(Tokyo, Japan, 2 and 3 September 2019)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1342 of 26 July 2019 on the dates and venue of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, to be held in Tokyo, on 2 and 3 September 2019,

Further to the discussion within the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Welcoming the offer by Japan to host the 2019 Conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to hold the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference on the subject “How to achieve comprehensive security in the digital era: the perspectives of the OSCE and its Asian Partners”;

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference as set out in the annex.

**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF  
THE 2019 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE ON HOW TO ACHIEVE  
COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA: THE  
PERSPECTIVES OF THE OSCE AND ITS ASIAN PARTNERS**

Tokyo, Japan, 2 and 3 September 2019

**Co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and  
the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

**I. Agenda**

**Monday, 2 September 2019**

- |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.15 a.m.       | Registration of participants and welcome coffee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9.45–10.30 a.m. | Opening remarks (open to the media) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Representative of the host country (Japan)</li><li>– Representative of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Italy)</li><li>– Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship (Slovakia)</li><li>– Secretary General of the OSCE</li></ul>                                                                               |
| 10.30–11 a.m.   | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  | Session 1: Tackling ICT security risks in the digital era<br><br>This session will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The impact of ICT in shaping international relations: addressing current ICT security challenges</li><li>– Protection of critical infrastructure against cyber attacks</li><li>– The role of regional organizations in promoting stability in the use of ICT among States</li></ul><br>Discussion |
| 1–2.30 p.m.     | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2.30–3.30 p.m.  | Possible slot for a side-event                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

3.30–5.30 p.m.	Session 2: The digital economy as a driver for promoting co-operation, security and growth
	This session will focus on:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Strengthening co-operation on addressing security aspects of the digital economy</li><li>– Widening access to digital technologies and enabling equal opportunities, in particular for women, youth and persons with disabilities</li><li>– The digital transformation and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda</li></ul>
	Discussion
Evening	Dinner reception

## **Tuesday, 3 September 2019**

9.30–11.30 a.m.	Session 3: Risks to the safety of journalists in the digital era
	This session will focus on:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Vulnerability of journalists to becoming targets of hacking or unlawful or arbitrary surveillance or interception of communications, undermining enjoyment of their right to freedom of expression and their right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy</li><li>– Distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, including through digital technologies</li></ul>
	Discussion
11.30 a.m.–12 noon	Coffee break
12 noon–1 p.m.	Closing remarks (open to the media)
1 p.m.	End of conference

## **II. Participation**

The OSCE participating States are invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.



The OSCE executive structures and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Council of Europe (CoE), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Representatives of the members of the ARF may attend as guests of the host country. Other countries and organizations may also be invited by the host country.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

### **III. Timetable and other organizational modalities**

The Conference will begin at 9.45 a.m. (opening remarks) on 2 September 2019 and end at 1 p.m. on 3 September 2019.

Each session will have a moderator and rapporteur. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council.

The Rules of Procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

The opening remarks and closing session will be open to the media. The Conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan. The working language will be English.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkey:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decisions just adopted on the dates and venue of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference and the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, the Republic of Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We would like to sincerely thank the 2019 Italian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group for all their efforts to reach consensus. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Japan for offering to host the 2019 Asian Conference. Turkey is committed to further expand and deepen the dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners.

The OSCE, with its comprehensive and co-operative concept of security, is a unique international platform in an era where effective multilateralism becomes increasingly needed. The participation of representatives of civil society enriches OSCE events. Turkey values their work and contribution to the advancement of the OSCE commitments.

The OSCE, as a security organization intended to serve and advance the security of its participating States, including Turkey, must not offer a platform to the extensions of terrorist organizations. Turkey has made its concerns with the participation of terror affiliates in OSCE events abundantly clear. Turkey has expressed its expectations on this matter on numerous occasions.

The clear rules in Paragraph 16, Decision IV, 1992 Helsinki Document must be implemented.

While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the current and previous Chairs of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on the implementation of Paragraph 16 of the said Document, as well as the initial work achieved by the Chair of the Open-Ended Reflection Process, Turkey believes that these efforts need to be redoubled in order to reach a lasting solution as early as possible.

Turkey takes note of the Slovak Chairmanship’s statement declaring its readiness to assume responsibility for taking final decisions should questions arise concerning the application of Paragraph 16 of the said Document.

Turkey joins consensus on the two decisions related to the 2019 Asian Conference with the understanding that the Chairmanship will not allow the participation of persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence to the Meeting.

Turkey will closely follow the preparations of the 2019 Asian Conference. If Turkey's legitimate concerns are not addressed in a concrete and satisfactory manner, this would amount to the non-implementation of Paragraph 16 and thus to non-compliance with our shared principles and commitments, particularly those related to the fight against terrorism. Such a situation would further jeopardize the credibility of our organization and undermine the rules and principles of the OSCE.

In that case, Turkey will not hesitate to take any action it deems necessary within the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision and also included in the journal of the day.”