

Chairmanship: Slovakia

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1250th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019 (Bratislava)

Opened: 11.15 a.m.

Closed: 11.40 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Žáková

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON FORWARDING OF A DRAFT DOCUMENT  
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1356 (PC.DEC/1356) on forwarding of a draft document to the Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Sweden (Annex 1), Poland (Annex 2), Finland-European Union, Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Canada, United States of America, Norway, Albania, Germany, Georgia, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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**1250th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1250, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

When my government decided to put forward its candidacy for the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2021, it did so after a process of thorough analysis. In taking this step, Sweden confirmed both its strong commitment to taking responsibility for peace and security in Europe and the importance it attaches to the OSCE as a forum for conflict prevention and resolution. This shows Sweden's commitment to promoting peace and co-operation among the 57 participating States.

My government's commitment to defending the European security order is well known, as is our wish to contribute to resolving the conflicts and crises affecting European security.

At this stage our Chairmanship programme has yet to be developed and we will share more detailed priorities in all three dimensions at a later stage. But I would just like to emphasize that we will continue to build on the achievements of the Slovak Chairmanship and incoming Albanian Chairmanship in seeking to rebuild trust and confidence while safeguarding the fundamental OSCE principles and commitments which we have all undertaken to uphold. We are firmly convinced of the validity of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, in which human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for all form the foundation of our common security.

Furthermore, we would like to explore ways of making the Chairmanship more accessible to all interested participating States, building on the ongoing efforts initiated by our predecessors in this office.

Against this backdrop, we thank you, the participating States, for putting your trust in us by supporting the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for the year 2021.

I would like to have this statement attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1250  
5 December 2019  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1250th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1250, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF POLAND**

At the outset, I wish to sincerely thank all participating States for approving the Permanent Council decision on the Polish candidacy for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2022.

We have decided to embark on this task in full awareness of the challenges now facing the OSCE and the Chairmanship in particular. We have taken the decision in the spirit of responsibility for our common security and of solidarity with all the participating States.

The function of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office is not completely new to us. We successfully chaired the Organization for the first time in 1998 – only a couple of years after the wave of political changes in Central and Eastern Europe. After more than 20 years, both Poland and the OSCE are at a very different moment in time and the challenges are hard to compare. Still, we believe that a difficult time is exactly the right time to confirm our attachment to the Helsinki Final Act's concept of comprehensive security and prepare to assume the OSCE Chairmanship once again.

The comprehensive security approach assigns a crucial role to the OSCE, namely, that of paying constant attention to the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions and to the entire range of cross-dimensional goals.

It is our sincere hope that by the time Poland assumes the Chairmanship, the situation with regard to the current conflicts in the OSCE area will have changed for the better, for the sake of the people affected by them on a daily basis and for the sake of good and constructive inter-State relations. But I can already reassure you that facilitating the resolution of existing conflicts and tensions will be our prime concern.

We welcome the recent progress in the disengagement process in Ukraine and hope that the upcoming summit of the Normandy Quartet on 9 December in Paris will constitute an important step in the peaceful resolution of this conflict. At the same time, the conflict in and around Ukraine still reminds us of the necessity to recommit to OSCE principles. It also proves how much the OSCE is needed for European security. The work done by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has been a distinguished example of the participating States joining in common efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Poland fully supports the work and mandate of the SMM and contributes significantly to its work. In the same vein, we welcome the efforts of the "Normandy format" and Trilateral Contact Group aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict through application of the Minsk

agreements and on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine.

Furthermore, Poland would build upon the current, incoming and previous Chairmanships' efforts to settle the protracted conflicts, in accordance both with the agreements concluded and with OSCE principles and commitments and international law. We assure all concerned of our full support for existing negotiation formats and would promote any effort that may contribute to achieving a negotiated resolution of the protracted conflicts.

With regard to the Geneva International Discussions on addressing the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia, Poland supports the negotiations in their current format, as they constitute the key instrument for resolving challenges deriving from the conflict. We are concerned about any deterioration of the security situation on the ground. We believe that the incident prevention and response mechanisms are a fundamental instrument for enhancing stability, improving security and increasing trust on the ground, and resolving urgent humanitarian issues triggered by the conflict.

The process of establishing a lasting solution to the Transdniestrian conflict will continue to be a focus for us as we strive to help the sides reach a further and final agreement. Both parties should engage constructively, redoubling their efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict based on respect for Moldovan territorial integrity and sovereignty, with a special status for Transdniestria. Any further step made along these lines will enhance stability and increase the well-being of the population on both sides of the Dniester.

Poland would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to promoting a negotiated and peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We fully support the work of the Minsk Group and the efforts of the Co-Chairs to reach an agreement on a comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on the core principles of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, particularly those related to the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples. We welcome the recent intensification of contacts between the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan and all constructive initiatives to reduce tensions on the ground, notably by setting up a mechanism for direct communication between the parties. We acknowledge and value the steps undertaken with the aim of "preparing the population for peace".

Poland has always been committed to human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. As host country to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), we attach and will continue to attach the utmost importance to the strengthening of the human dimension, which remains at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The active role that we have been playing every year in the run-up to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the constant support we have been providing to the ODIHR confirm how much the third dimension matters to us. It also proves how deeply the OSCE is rooted in Poland and how closely Poland is interlinked with the OSCE.

Economic and environmental activities still play a unique role in promoting trust and confidence among OSCE participating States. Poland firmly supports the OSCE's second dimension and will spare no efforts to further reinforce peace and security by transforming environmental and economic challenges into new avenues for enhancing co-operation.

We would remain committed to advancing the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and to supporting all measures and undertakings against organized crime and corruption.

Developing partnerships and further strengthening co-operation with the OSCE's Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation will continue to be a focus under the Polish Chairmanship.

We would like to reassure all participating States that Poland would spare no efforts in trying to rebuild trust and confidence, while preserving the fundamental OSCE principles. We are convinced that firm recommitment to the OSCE *acquis* with its comprehensive approach to security remains a matter of crucial importance. Due attention would be given to addressing the sensitivities and concerns of all OSCE participating States. Our aim would be to act as an honest broker, while preserving the basic OSCE rules enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent documents.

Finally, let me congratulate Sweden on having received the approval of the Permanent Council for the Chairmanship in 2021. We wish you every success in undertaking this important role. When preparing ourselves for the 2022 Chairmanship, we intend to work closely both with Sweden and with the incoming Albanian Chairmanship, in order to ensure the greatest possible measure of continuity and synergy.

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/1250  
5 December 2019  
Annex 3

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**1250th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1250, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on the decision on the incoming OSCE Chairmanships on the understanding that their activities as future OSCE Chairmanships will be in line with the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council Decision on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office (MC(10).DEC/8), which established clear guidelines for the activities of Chairmanships.

In particular, operative paragraph 2 of this document requires that the OSCE Chairmanship ensures that its activities are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account.

We took note of the statement just delivered by the representative of Poland, in which he opted to use specific language with regard to the conflict on the territory of Azerbaijan. I would like to assure the incoming Chairmanships of Sweden and Poland that the delegation of Azerbaijan will make sure that their future activities as incoming OSCE Chairmanships with regard to the conflict in Azerbaijan will be fully in line with the OSCE agreed documents and decisions.

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.DEC/1356  
5 December 2019

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**1250th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1250, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1356  
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT DOCUMENT  
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 the following document:

- Draft decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the years 2021 and 2022 (MC.DD/18/19);

Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of the above-mentioned document.