



Chairmanship: Malta

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1504th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 20 December 2024

Opened: 5.15 p.m.
Closed: 5.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador N. Meli Daudey

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A
DECISION ON THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE
YEAR 2026

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1505 (PC.DEC/1505) on the recommendation to adopt a decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Switzerland, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:
To be announced



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

PC.DEC/1505
20 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1504th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1504, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1505
RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A DECISION ON THE
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2026**

The Permanent Council,

1. Requests the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson-in-Office the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026 (MC.DD/8/24 of 19 December 2024);
2. Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of this decision through a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on 30 December 2024, at noon CET.

PC.DEC/1505
20 December 2024
Attachment 1

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:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the recommendation to adopt a decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026, the Russian Federation notes the following.

Our assumption is that, in the event of the Swiss Confederation’s candidature for the OSCE Chairmanship being approved, it will make a meaningful effort to salvage the Organization’s ability to perform, and to restore a culture of professional, dialogue-oriented inter-State co-operation.

We expect Switzerland to adhere closely to the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, as set out in the Porto Ministerial Council decision of 2002, and avert the recurrence of the shameful practice of previous Chairmanships with regard to introducing confrontationally worded topics for discussion at official events. We trust that the future Chairmanship will actively hold consultations with all participating States on the preparation of key events in the OSCE’s annual cycle, guarantee equal and unhindered access to these events for everyone without exception, and not allow programmatic work to be skewed altogether towards certain issues.

Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 – which stipulates that the OSCE’s leadership must act in the public eye exclusively in accordance with approaches agreed upon by consensus – remains a categorical imperative in the work of the Chairmanship-in-Office. No violations indulged in by previous Chairmanships may be used as a precedent or justification for any further deviations from that rule.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.”

PC.DEC/1505
20 December 2024
Attachment 2

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:

“The United States welcomes consensus on the decision to appoint Switzerland Chairmanship-in-Office for 2026. We thank Switzerland for stepping up to lead the OSCE at this critical time. We have every confidence that Switzerland will be a principled and capable Chairmanship, ensuring the OSCE’s continued effectiveness.

We would like to remind delegations of our commitment to appoint a Chairmanship ‘as a rule two years before the Chairmanship’s term of office starts.’ We should adhere to this agreement and appoint future Chairmanships so they have the full two years to prepare.

We look forward to supporting Switzerland in every way we can when it takes up the Chairmanship in 2026.”

PC.DEC/1505
20 December 2024
Attachment 3

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 Armenia:

“In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the recommendation to adopt a decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026 (PC.DD/40/24), the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia welcomes the adoption of the decision and thanks Switzerland for stepping up to lead the Organization during these challenging times. Switzerland has a longstanding and profound tradition of contribution to international organizations. Hosting numerous such institutions further underscores its unwavering commitment to strengthening and promoting international co-operation. We are confident that Switzerland’s extensive experience and active stance in international relations will greatly benefit the work of this Organization.

We note with satisfaction that the collaborative spirit of the participating States has enabled the adoption of crucial decisions this year on the appointment of the top four positions of the OSCE institutions and the recommendation on the Chairmanship for 2026, providing greater predictability, continued leadership, and a clearer strategic vision for the future.

No organization can survive without leadership. Therefore, we believe that our decisions reflect a shared commitment to the vitality of the OSCE, its relevance, and its necessity. We call upon the leadership of the OSCE, including its incoming and future Chairmanships and officers to uphold this collaborative spirit. It is essential to preserve and safeguard the principles, commitments, and mechanisms established within this framework as a testament to the trust placed in them by participating States.

We firmly believe that the OSCE remains well-positioned to fulfil its mandate in promoting peace, security, and stability across its area of responsibility. Armenia stands ready to work closely with the OSCE leadership towards these goals. It is our collective duty to ensure that the Organization remains pertinent, present and active wherever its mandate requires it to be.

I kindly ask to attach this interpretative statement to the decision adopted and be reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”