

**Chairmanship: Slovakia**

**1226th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 2 May 2019

Opened: 10.10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.  
Closed: 5.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč  
Ambassador K. Žáková

Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council and, furthermore, Armenia and Turkey, welcomed the new Head of the Council of Europe Office in Vienna, H.E. Ambassador Rudolf Lennkh, to the meeting. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, also welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Siniša Bencun.

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

Agenda item 1: PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson, Chairperson of the Security Committee (PC.DEL/436/19 OSCE+), Romania-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 countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/468/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/435/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/454/19 OSCE+), Turkey, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/444/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/434/19), Georgia (PC.DEL/483/19 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/475/19)

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 PROGRAMME OUTLINE  
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/82/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/439/19), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/445/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/442/19 OSCE+), Canada, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/473/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Montenegro and Serbia; as well as Andorra, in alignment) (PC.DEL/489/19), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/453/19 OSCE+), Norway, Moldova (PC.DEL/474/19 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/476/19), Albania (PC.DEL/463/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT  
OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO TWO RUSSIAN  
CHECKPOINTS ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN  
BORDER

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1328 (PC.DEC/1328) on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/83/19 OSCE+)

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/450/19), Romania-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/469/19/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/456/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/467/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/441/19), Canada, France (also on behalf of Germany) (PC.DEL/437/19 OSCE+), Hungary
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/455/19)

- (c) *World Press Freedom Day, observed on 3 May 2019*: Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/471/19), Switzerland (also on behalf of Andorra, Canada, Liechtenstein and Norway) (PC.DEL/458/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/447/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/440/19), Turkmenistan, United Kingdom (also on behalf of Ireland) (PC.DEL/461/19 OSCE+), San Marino, Canada (also on behalf of the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/462/19 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/477/19), Ukraine (PC.DEL/452/19), Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/446/19 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/464/19), France (PC.DEL/448/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/466/19 OSCE+), Germany
- (d) *Violation of the freedoms of assembly and expression in Turkey*: Armenia (PC.DEL/478/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/482/19 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Informal Ministerial Gathering, to be held in the High Tatras mountains, Slovakia, on 9 July 2019 (CIO.GAL/61/19 Restr.)*: Chairperson
- (b) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Montenegro from 6 to 8 May 2019*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Visit of the Secretary General to Moscow from 23 to 26 April 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/80/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/80/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (b) *Visit of the Secretary General to Ashgabat from 16 to 18 April 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/80/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/80/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (c) *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Director for Multilateral Policy in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, held in Vienna on 11 April 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/80/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/80/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Biometrics Institute conference "ID @ Borders & Future of Travel" organized in collaboration with the OSCE and held in Vienna on 11 and 12 April 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/80/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/80/19/Add.1 OSCE+)
- (e) *Presentation of the results of an OSCE-led survey on the well-being and safety of women, held in Belgrade on 18 April 2019*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/80/19 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/80/19/Add.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Second round of the Ukrainian presidential election, held on 21 April 2019: Ukraine (PC.DEL/451/19), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/470/19/Rev.1), Canada, Turkey (PC.DEL/465/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/449/19)*
- (b) *High-level OSCE events conducted in Ashgabat in the period from 15 to 18 April 2019: Turkmenistan*
- (c) *International Day of the Portuguese Language and Culture, marked on 5 May 2019: Portugal (PC.DEL/472/19)*
- (d) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Kyrgyzstan on 8 and 9 April 2019: Kyrgyzstan*
- (e) *Needs assessment mission report on the presidential election in Kazakhstan to be held on 9 June 2019, distributed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/443/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union, United States of America, Russian Federation*
- (f) *Meeting with leaders of the Western Balkans held in Berlin on 29 April 2019: Germany (also on behalf of France) (PC.DEL/459/19)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 9 May 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1328  
2 May 2019

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1226th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1226, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1328**  
**EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO**  
**TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE**  
**RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014 on the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.DEC/1130),

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the deployment of OSCE observers to the two Russian border checkpoints of Donetsk and Gukovo on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 30 September 2019;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/23/19 of 3 April 2019. In this respect, authorizes the use of 515,600 euros from the 2017 cash surplus to fund the proposed budget for the duration of the mandate to 30 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**

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

“In connection with the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian State border, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

The European Union’s views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Russian-Ukrainian State border are well known. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of this border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments, which re-establishes full Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for permanent monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of Measures includes a commitment to reinstate full Ukrainian control over its entire international border.

The OSCE Observer Mission’s currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the Observer Mission to all border crossings on the Russia-Ukraine State border currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and we reiterate the need for the SMM to be assured safe and unhindered access to all parts of the border currently not under Ukrainian Government control since border and ceasefire monitoring are very closely interlinked. Further we underline the need for sufficient equipment and sufficient freedom of movement for the Observer Mission at the current crossing stations in order to monitor movements on the border more effectively.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to resist any expansion of the Observer Mission including the improvement of its equipment.

We welcome the mandate extension by four months.”

The candidate countries North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

---

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

**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.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the extension of deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States finds it deeply regrettable that Russia continues to block the expansion of the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States to do so. We once again must accept an inadequate, limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which together account for only a few hundred meters of the 2,300 kilometre Ukrainian-Russian border, much of which Ukraine does not control.

Due to Russia’s unwarranted restrictions of the border Observer Mission’s work, the Mission fails to ascertain the full extent to which Russia participates in or facilitates the flow of arms, funding, and personnel to support its proxies in eastern Ukraine.

We note that point 4 of the Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE to monitor and verify both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and to create a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is to the detriment of all efforts to resolve the conflict that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. Russia’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission demonstrates, regrettably, once again, Moscow’s unwillingness to take its Minsk commitments seriously.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



**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 Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1 (A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The delegation of Ukraine consistently reiterates the importance of having a substantial and broad OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

Having signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, all signatories including the Russian Federation, undertook to ensure permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification by the OSCE with the establishment of a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. This commitment has been undertaken by members of the Trilateral Contact Group – Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE. Until now, the permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE have not been established and a security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and Russia has not been formed. Expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions remains critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the international armed conflict taking place in the Donbas region of Ukraine. This would become a significant practical measure in implementing concrete provisions of the Minsk agreements.

We deeply regret that the Russian Federation continues to strongly resist expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities. Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can be attributed only to its unchanged intention to continue intervention in Ukraine’s Donbas, including by sending heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring the terrorist activities in the territory of Ukraine. We continue to urge Russia to cease immediately these internationally wrongful acts.

In this connection, the delegation of Ukraine recalls that Russia has not responded to numerous requests for explanations regarding the OSCE SMM's reported presence in the occupied parts of Donbas of modern Russian weapons and military equipment including the jamming system R-330 'Zhitel' and electronic warfare system RB-341V 'Leer-3' which in accordance to the SMM reports are used for signal interference with the SMM UAVs. Last month, in March 2019, the SMM spotted for the first time in the occupied parts of Donbas the most modern Russian 'Tirada-2' satellite communication jamming complex, which reportedly, the Russian armed forces started to receive on their inventory lists from only last year.

We call upon the Russian Federation to demonstrate its full commitment to the implementation of the Minsk arrangements in good faith and to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring by the OSCE on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian State border adjacent to the certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions with establishment of a security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1328  
2 May 2019  
Attachment 4

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:

“The Russian Federation joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the latest extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border for four months (until 30 September 2019), regarding the work of this team as an additional voluntary confidence-building measure in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We reaffirm that the places of deployment and functions of the team of OSCE observers are clearly defined by the team’s mandate approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 1130 of 24 July 2014, which is based on the invitation of the Russian Federation of 14 July 2014 made in the wake of the Berlin Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine of 2 July 2014.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 does not mention the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. Nor is there any reference to this in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 and subsequently endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The decision to allow OSCE observers on Russian territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on Russia’s part.

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