

Chairmanship: Sweden

1337th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 30 September 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered
Ambassador T. Lorentzson

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF KYRGYZSTAN, H.E. MR. RUSLAN KAZAKBAEV

Chairperson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan (PC.DEL/1539/21 OSCE+), Slovenia-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/1545/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1509/21), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1541/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1513/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1508/21), Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Norway (PC.DEL/1512/21), Uzbekistan, Tajikistan (PC.DEL/1511/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1533/21), Slovenia-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/1544/21), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1538/21 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1537/21 OSCE+), Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1510/21)

- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1520/21), Ukraine
- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters*: Armenia (Annex 1)
- (d) *Rise of neo-Nazism in the OSCE area as a consequence of the Munich Agreement of 1938*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1514/21) (PC.DEL/1534/21), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1532/21), Belarus (PC.DEL/1526/21 OSCE+), Slovenia-European Union, Lithuania, United States of America (PC.DEL/1515/21) (PC.DEL/1516/21), Latvia (Annex 2), United Kingdom, Canada
- (e) *Statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued on 24 September 2021*: Russian Federation (also on behalf of France and the United States of America), Canada, Slovenia-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 countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1546/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1517/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1518/21), United Kingdom, Armenia (Annex 3), Azerbaijan (Annex 4), Turkey (Annex 5)
- (f) *Permanent deletion by YouTube of RT's German-language channels*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1524/21) (PC.DEL/1528/21), Germany (Annex 6), Luxembourg
- (g) *Importance of civil society in the OSCE region*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1519/21), Slovenia-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 countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1543/21), United Kingdom, Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/1529/21 OSCE+), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey (PC.DEL/1552/21 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1550/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1523/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Moldova, to take place from 4 to 6 October 2021: Chairperson*
- (b) *Participation of the Chairperson-in-Office in the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 30 September 2021, and meetings between the Chairperson-in-Office and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H. E. Mr. J. Bayramov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, H. E. Mr. A. Mirzoyan, the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, H E. Mr. A. Kasprzyk: Chairperson*
- (c) *Meeting between the Chairperson-in-Office and representatives of Swedish civil society organizations, held on 29 September 2021: Chairperson*
- (d) *102nd meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, co-organized by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, H.E. Ms. A. Söder, and the Head of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, H.E. Mr. M. Szczygiel, held in Ergneti, Georgia, on 27 September 2021: Chairperson*
- (e) *Call for nominations for the 2021 White Ribbon awards for the promotion of gender equality in the OSCE area, with a final deadline of 5 November 2021: Chairperson*
- (f) *Briefing on logistical information related to the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 5 October 2021: Chairperson*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/132/21 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General*
- (b) *Meetings between the Secretary General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, H.E. Mr. R. Kazakbaev, held on 30 September 2021, H.E. Mr. F. Rzayev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, held on 28 September 2021, and the Special Representative of the President of Kazakhstan for International Co-operation, H.E. Mr. E. Kazykhan, held on 27 September 2021: Director of the Office of the Secretary General*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in a high-level event on trafficking in persons and sustainable procurement, organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and held on 27 September 2021: Director of the Office of the Secretary General*

- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in an event on advancing the OSCE's role in the field of climate security, organized by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and held on 29 September 2021: Director of the Office of the Secretary General*
- (e) *Participation of the Secretary General, on 30 September and 1 October 2021, in an international simulation-based training event on combating trafficking in human beings, held in Vicenza, Italy, from 27 September to 1 October 2021: Director of the Office of the Secretary General*

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE, Ambassador I. Hasani: Chairperson, Albania*
- (b) *The 80th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1531/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1525/21 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Situation in the north of Kosovo and agreed conclusions in Brussels on 30 September 2021: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate country Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1542/21), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada), Albania, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1536/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1522/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1521/21), Russian Federation, Serbia*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 7 October 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1337
30 September 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

1337th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Three days ago, on 27 September 2021, Armenia and Artsakh commemorated the first anniversary of the outbreak of the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan with the direct support and participation of Turkey and Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists. Azerbaijan's unprovoked war of aggression against Artsakh was accompanied by numerous atrocities and war crimes, including flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. As a result of the 44-day war, several thousand people were killed, many thousands were injured and tens of thousands of residents of Nagorno-Karabakh were displaced. In the parts of Nagorno-Karabakh which came under the control of Azerbaijan, the Armenian people were subjected to full-blown ethnic cleansing. Azerbaijan's aggression also caused enormous damage to critical civilian infrastructure and to the environment.

The signing on 9 November 2020 by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation of a Russian-mediated trilateral statement on a ceasefire stopped the bloodshed and violence. One year later, however, a number of important issues contained in that statement still remain outstanding.

Moreover, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains unresolved, notwithstanding the claims of Azerbaijan to the contrary. The right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination cannot be suspended through the use of force, nor can the conflict be considered resolved through the use of force. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is awaiting its just settlement. This is evidenced by the statements of the Co-Chair countries emphasizing the need to resume the negotiation process on the basis of the well-known principles.

Dear colleagues,

The most pressing trilateral statement issue that remains unresolved is that of prisoners of war and civilian hostages held by Azerbaijan. As of today, more than 240 military personnel and 22 civilians are missing. Azerbaijan recognizes the detention of only 46 Armenian prisoners (43 military personnel and 3 civilians), who are being subjected to mock trials and lengthy illegal sentences on bogus charges. However, there is irrefutable evidence indicating that about 100 Armenian prisoners of war and civilians are illegally

detained in Azerbaijan. Many of them appear in videos or photographs posted by representatives of the Azerbaijani armed forces on social networks. The testimonies of Armenian prisoners of war not only reveal shocking details concerning their torture and inhuman treatment in Azerbaijani captivity, but also clearly indicate that many of the missing persons were in Azerbaijani captivity, which makes their cases tantamount to enforced disappearances. Human Rights Watch and other watchdogs have provided detailed reports on this dire situation. Given Azerbaijan's unapologetic disregard for international law, the fate of these people causes very serious concern.

In a resolution adopted two days ago, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe explicitly stated that a fairly significant number of Armenians had been subjected to enforced disappearance and possibly killed.

Dear colleagues,

Contrary to the official narrative of the Azerbaijani authorities and their clumsy attempts at denial, Azerbaijan's attack on Artsakh was a pre-planned and carefully prepared act of military aggression.

This is clearly evidenced both by the actions of Azerbaijan in the pre-war period and by the policy pursued by Azerbaijan after the war. Constant threats of use of force by the Azerbaijani leadership for many years, rejection of international mediators' proposals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and strengthening of the ceasefire, continued ceasefire violations, excessive accumulation of offensive weapons and regular carrying out of offensive military exercises along the line of contact in violation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna Document, refusal to join the call of the United Nations Secretary-General for a global ceasefire, and post-war statements denying the very existence of Nagorno-Karabakh – all these things demonstrate that Azerbaijan was never interested in a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

The war of aggression was accompanied by gross violations of norms of international humanitarian law and human rights law. All the crimes committed by the Azerbaijani troops were thoroughly documented and registered with international organizations and specialized international bodies. The delegation of Armenia has distributed a number of relevant factual reports. Work in this direction will be continued on various international platforms, including the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice.

In this context, I wish to inform the Permanent Council that Armenia has filed a lawsuit against Azerbaijan for decades-long systematic violations of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We saw how the 44-day war of aggression was accompanied by a surge in the manifestations of racial discrimination and State propaganda marked by anti-Armenian hatred.

Azerbaijan's Armenophobic State policy, which is also instilled in the younger generation through school and pre-school curricula, will have long-term consequences that will inevitably lead to new war crimes and crimes against humanity. The so-called trophy park in the centre of Baku is a vivid reminder of this policy. We hope that the relevant institutions realize this potential threat and their responsibility to contain it today. This is an

issue that deserves the most serious attention from the relevant international structures and mechanisms, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Madam Chairperson,

The war of aggression was waged in close co-operation and co-ordination with the politico-military leadership of Turkey, and under the Turkish military command.

Turkey's active participation in the war of aggression against Artsakh has been confirmed both by the facts on the ground and the self-revealing statements of the Turkish and Azerbaijani leadership. The latest statement was made yesterday by Turkey's presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin, who said, and I quote: "The victory in Karabakh is of particular importance to us from the point of view of the Turkish armed forces ... We have carried out very successful military operations ... We have achieved such great success as a result of the good co-ordination of the actions of our Armed Forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the very flexible leadership of our President." According to Ibrahim Kalin, this was the third victory, the first two being in Syria and Libya.

For years, the Armenian delegation has voiced Armenia's concerns about the Turkish leadership's power projection policy, which has a clear anti-Armenian edge. The war of aggression against Artsakh and Turkey's direct involvement in it have once again confirmed the validity of these concerns.

In previous statements we have also said that Turkey could have played a constructive role in the region, provided it abandoned its old nationalistic narratives and neo-Ottoman policies. Unfortunately, this has not happened. Turkey's actions and words show the contrary to be true, notwithstanding its constant claim to desire peace in the region, which rings hollow in the light of its actions.

Madam Chairperson,

The use of foreign terrorist fighters in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been widely recognized and noted by a considerable number of heads of State, intelligence services, well-known experts and journalists. The United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries has stated publicly that since August 2020, Turkey and Azerbaijan have been involved in recruiting fighters through armed groups affiliated primarily to the "Syrian National Army" for deployment to Azerbaijan in support of Azerbaijan's military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. Many of these fighters agreed to support the Azerbaijani armed forces in exchange for monetary reward. It is noteworthy that the transfer of foreign terrorist fighters was also carried out with the help of a civilian airline operating in Azerbaijan.

In the absence of a proper and consolidated response on the part of the international community, Azerbaijan and its allies continue to ardently deny the facts. In addition, they continue to utilize the tactics of reusing and replicating identical accusations in reverse order in an attempt to whitewash their wrongdoings and/or mislead the international community. Despite the facts being well documented and proven by Armenia and others, Azerbaijan continues to repeat and disseminate its own fictional narrative about Armenia's alleged use of foreign fighters and mercenaries or prohibited munitions, including munitions containing

white phosphorus. Moreover, such claims are also made with reference to the first Karabakh war. According to the same logic, a few days after Armenia's complaint to the International Court of Justice, Azerbaijan filed the same suit in the same court in an attempt to balance the situation.

Dear colleagues,

Azerbaijan continues its provocative actions on the line of contact with Artsakh and on the border with Armenia, periodically escalating tensions in the region. On 28 September, an Armenian soldier was wounded in the Gegharkunik region of Armenia as a result of shots fired from Azerbaijani positions. It is noteworthy that this provocation came shortly after the agreement reached on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York between the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the resumption of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship. We strongly condemn these provocations and call on Azerbaijan to engage constructively in the negotiation process under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

For its part, Armenia has repeatedly expressed its readiness to engage constructively and take appropriate measures aimed at de-escalation and the addressing of humanitarian issues. To overcome the present situation, the Prime Minister of Armenia has suggested that the armed forces of both Armenia and Azerbaijan withdraw simultaneously to the border of Soviet times and that international observers be deployed along that border and a delimitation and demarcation process be initiated under international auspices.

In stark contrast to this, the address of the President of Azerbaijan at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly was full of threats, warmongering rhetoric, hate speech, aggressive nationalism and territorial claims against Armenia. One would have to be immensely imaginative and indeed deluded to consider the address a "call for peace".

Madam Chairperson,

For obvious reasons, the issue of delimitation and demarcation of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border cannot be negotiated against the backdrop of almost daily shootings and various provocations on that border and the illegal presence of units of the armed forces of Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia since 12 May 2021.

Distinguished colleagues,

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of a flagrant violation by Azerbaijan of several core principles of the Helsinki Final Act, namely, refraining from the threat or use of force; peaceful settlement of disputes; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No one should be under any illusion that the results of the use of force, accompanied by war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, can ever become the basis for a lasting and sustainable peace. Such peace can be achieved in the region only through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include the determination of the status of Artsakh on the basis of the realization by the people of Artsakh of their inalienable right to

self-determination; the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of displaced population to their homes; and the preservation of the historical and religious heritage of the region.

Madam Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1337
30 September 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1337th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. However, since my country was mentioned by the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, I should like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

The Permanent Council is not the proper place to discuss historical topics, and I fail to see how a very selective approach to history and a questionable interpretation of it can possibly constitute a current issue.

Three years ago, at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 27 September 2018, we delivered a statement (PC.DEL/1118/18) in response to the statement by the Russian Federation on “the Munich Pact of 1938 and the rise of neo-Nazism in the OSCE area”. In the interest of time, we see no need to extensively repeat what has been said before.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I kindly ask you to attach my statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1337
30 September 2021
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1337th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by thanking the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for raising this current issue on the latest statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued on 24 September, following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the sidelines of the general debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We also thank the delegations of Canada, the European Union, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom for their interventions.

Dear colleagues,

Armenia has repeatedly expressed its readiness to engage constructively in the negotiation process on the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and in accordance with their mandate. We once again emphasize that a situation created through the use of force cannot gain legitimacy from the point of view of international law, and equally that it cannot serve as a basis for ensuring lasting and sustainable peace in the region.

Those who are looking for a one-sided solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are not sincere in their expressed desire to bring long-lasting peace to the region. Furthermore, their statements or declarations about peace should be reflected in actions on the ground. Throughout the year, Armenia has been advocating a negotiated and balanced solution based on compromises, taking into account the truly vital interests of all parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, that is to say, the interests of the countries and people of the region and not the interests and ambitions of individuals and personalities in power.

In this regard, we welcome the resumption of the process almost a year after the cessation of hostilities and reiterate our readiness to continue our efforts to find a final and durable solution to the conflict through political and diplomatic means, based on the well-known principles. Only a negotiated and comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can pave the way for lasting peace and stability in the region.

Thank you.



1337th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan took note of the statement by the Russian Federation read on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Upon the initiative of the other side, the separate meetings with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and with the Armenian Foreign Minister with the participation of the Co-Chairs took place in New York, on the sidelines of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Exchange of views was held to take forward the normalization process between Azerbaijan and Armenia, based on the new realities on the ground. At the meetings, the well-known position of Azerbaijan on the post-conflict situation was reiterated to the counterparts.

The trilateral statement signed on 10 November 2020 between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia has put an end to the conflict and set agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region. As we clearly stated before, to play a meaningful role in the region, the OSCE needs to stay relevant and abreast of the new reality on the ground. At the current post-conflict stage, all the efforts of the OSCE and its executive structures must be directed towards support for the full implementation of the trilateral statements and practical engagement with the sides in order to seize a unique opportunity to consolidate peace and stability in the region.

As was as reflected in the Permanent Council decision on approval of the 2021 Unified Budget agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities, which includes future potential programmatic activities of the Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and the High-Level Planning Group, which is subject to ongoing discussions in light of the trilateral statements. We expect concrete proposals from the Co-Chairs to this end.

There can be no business as usual. We stress once again that the role of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in the current context depends on their support to the full implementation of the trilateral statements as well as their respective contributions to building peace in the region.

Attempts to impose obsolete narratives and concepts will not be productive and are not relevant for us. We call on participating States to refrain from making statements or references such as “Nagorno-Karabakh” or so-called “status” that can in no way contribute to consolidating peace and stability in the region, but, on the contrary, can produce the opposite effect by sending the wrong signal and embolden Armenia to believe in an alternative to consolidating peace and normalizing relations with its neighbour, and sustaining revanchist attitudes prevailing in Armenia. There is no administrative unit called “Nagorno-Karabakh”. There are Garabagh and East Zangazur economic regions in Azerbaijan established by the decree of the President of Azerbaijan.

Now that the war is over and the conflict has been resolved, the priorities of Azerbaijan at the current post-conflict stage have been stated unambiguously, including at the highest political level. These are the soonest and effective post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration, as well as reconciliation and normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders, including through signing a peace treaty based on these principles. There is no alternative to this. However, we have not yet seen any positive reaction from Armenia regarding our proposal.

Issues such as delimitation and demarcation of the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia are bilateral and should be dealt with by the two States in strict compliance with norms and principles of international law. All other issues pertaining to the domestic jurisdiction of Azerbaijan shall be dealt with in accordance with the legislation and Constitution of Azerbaijan.

The Government of Azerbaijan has already initiated practical steps aiming at eliminating the consequences of the decades-old occupation of the territories accompanied by massive destruction. Large-scale construction work is carried out in the liberated territories. Azerbaijan is building new cities and towns from scratch by applying modern urban planning and utilizing the concepts of “smart city” and “smart village”. All this work is being conducted with Azerbaijan’s own financial resources. To that end, 1.3 billion US dollars has been allocated from the State budget only this year.

Almost one year since the signing of the trilateral statements, we are not in a position to report to the Permanent Council full implementation of these agreements. Armenia still refuses to withdraw its armed forces fully from the territories of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeepers are temporarily deployed. Likewise, Armenia refuses to implement Article 9 of the 10 November trilateral statement, which envisages restoration of all economic and transport links in the region supplemented by another trilateral statement signed on 11 January 2021. However, this is one of the areas that can serve the cause of peace and co-operation in the region. In this context, the Zangazur corridor connecting mainland Azerbaijan with its inseparable part – the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic – and Turkey will create new opportunities for the whole region.

Another challenge is the vast area of Azerbaijan contaminated with landmines planted by Armenia in the liberated territories. Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, around 30 Azerbaijani citizens, including two journalists, were killed, and around 130 citizens were wounded. Azerbaijan is among the most heavily mined

countries in the world. It slows down the reconstruction process in the liberated territories and the return of internally displaced persons to their homes.

It is deplorable that Armenia refuses to release accurate maps of the minefields. The accuracy level of the maps for three regions, which Armenia had to provide, is only 25 per cent. The international community must force Armenia to provide Azerbaijan with accurate mine maps of all liberated territories.

With regard to statements on release of so-called prisoners of war and other detainees, Azerbaijan stated clearly that those sent by Armenia to the territory of Azerbaijan with the aim of engaging in sabotage and terrorist activities in the period after the signing of the trilateral statement are not and cannot be considered prisoners of war in accordance with international humanitarian law and are liable under the criminal law of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Such provocations vividly demonstrated that Armenia has not abandoned its futile attempts to undermine the fragile peace. We further discourage these participating States from reiterating their old narratives related to so-called prisoners of war and detainees in Azerbaijan. Those detainees who committed crimes in the territory of Azerbaijan face criminal charges in accordance with domestic legislation.

As far as access of humanitarian organizations to the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan is concerned, Azerbaijan actively co-operates with international organizations, including humanitarian organizations, and creates all necessary conditions for their work in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan proceeds from the norms and principles of international law as well as international standards set by the United Nations with regard to the provision of international humanitarian aid. Activities of all international organizations in the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan must be conducted exclusively by the consent of Azerbaijan and implemented in co-ordination with relevant authorities of Azerbaijan. Their access to these territories can only be ensured through the territory of Azerbaijan. Such an approach is fully in line with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolution.

It is essential for Armenia to soberly assess the new realities and not to rely on miscalculations or false expectations that could jeopardize fragile peace in the region established with the signing of the trilateral statement. Instead, Armenia should reciprocate the constructive offer of Azerbaijan and seize the historic opportunity to normalize its relations with neighbouring countries, which will open up immense opportunities for this country and for the broader region.

I request 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/1337
30 September 2021
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1337th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We thank the delegation of the Russian Federation for raising this current issue.

We took note of the statement issued by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group on 24 September.

Turkey is an active member of the Minsk Group. We have always actively and constructively participated in the meetings of the Group and in the briefings given by the Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office. We look forward to the next briefing of the Co-Chairs.

Mr. Chairperson,

There is a need for new and constructive approaches in the Southern Caucasus. All countries should make a sincere effort to develop good neighbourly relations based on trust, including respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We have to make peace and stability permanent and provide the conditions for economic development and regional co-operation. Regional ownership is the key. Turkey is ready to work with all parties who want to make good use of this historic opportunity.

For their part, the OSCE, including the Minsk Group, and the OSCE participating States should support the implementation of the two trilateral statements signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation. They should contribute to the reconciliation and normalization of the relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Mr. Chairperson,

We heard the same kind of statement at this morning's hate speech slot.

However, now, here in the Permanent Council, we should start fully capitalizing this platform's potential for constructive dialogue. There is a dire need for new and constructive approaches.

I want to emphasize one more time on this occasion: President Erdoğan made it very clear that Turkey would reciprocate sincere and constructive steps from Armenia.

I request 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/1337
30 September 2021
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1337th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1337, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Since my Russian colleague mentioned Germany in his statement, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

The decision to block the channels RT DE and Der Fehlende Part was made by the YouTube platform. It justified its decision by citing violations of community guidelines, specifically false information about the coronavirus pandemic. The Federal Government has taken note of this decision by YouTube.

I emphatically refute the different reading by my Russian colleague implying – I quote the interpretation of the oral statement by my Russian colleague – “*de facto* support by the German authorities”. It is a decision by the YouTube company. Neither the Federal Government nor its representatives have anything to do with this decision.

I cannot and will not comment on the alleged remark by a former member of parliament cited here. As a citizen, Mr. Wimmer has the right to freedom of speech.

The Federal Government regards freedom of the press as a valuable commodity and we defend it at home and abroad. It should be pointed out that it is a right of individuals, not of States.

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