

Chairmanship: Switzerland

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(991st Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 21 March 2014

Opened: 7.30 p.m.
Closed: 7.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador T. Greminger

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT OF AN OSCE SPECIAL
MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1117 (PC.DEC/1117) on deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision),
United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision),
Chairperson, Secretary General

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 27 March 2014, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



991st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 991, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1117
DEPLOYMENT OF AN OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION
TO UKRAINE**

The Permanent Council,

Committed to upholding the principles as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Helsinki Final Act,

Decides:

1. To deploy a special OSCE monitoring mission of international observers to Ukraine;
2. That the aim of the said mission will be to contribute, throughout the country and in co-operation with the concerned OSCE executive structures and relevant actors of the international community (such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe), to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security; and to monitoring and supporting the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments;
3. To task the Special Monitoring Mission, operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency, to:
 - Gather information and report on the security situation in the area of operation;
 - Establish and report facts in response to specific incidents and reports of incidents, including those concerning alleged violations of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments;
 - Monitor and support respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities;
 - In order to fulfil its tasks, to establish contact with local, regional and national authorities, civil society, ethnic and religious groups, and members of the local population;
 - Facilitate the dialogue on the ground in order to reduce tensions and promote normalization of the situation;

- Report on any restrictions of the monitoring mission’s freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate;
 - Co-ordinate with and support the work of the OSCE executive structures, including the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, in full respect of their mandates, as well as co-operate with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and other actors of the international community;
4. The Special Monitoring Mission will be headed by a Chief Monitor appointed by the Chairperson-in-Office in accordance with the provisions of the OSCE Staff Rules and Regulations for appointment of the Head of Mission;
 5. The Special Monitoring Mission will be deployed for a period of six months. The mandate of the mission can be renewed for further six month periods by decision of the Permanent Council if requested by Ukraine;
 6. The Special Monitoring Mission will consist initially of 100 civilian monitors operating as necessary 24/7 in teams. The Chief Monitor will notify the Chairmanship, the Permanent Council, and the host country of the concrete modalities, based on the needs on the ground. As necessary and according to the situation, the mission may expand by a total of up to 400 additional monitors. Monitors will initially be deployed to Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Luhansk. The head office will be in Kyiv. Any change in deployment shall be subject to a decision of the Permanent Council;
 7. The Special Monitoring Mission members will have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine to fulfil their mandate;
 8. The Chief Monitor will regularly report through the Chairmanship to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this decision;
 9. To approve the arrangements as well as the financial and human resources for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as contained in document PC.ACMF/10/14. In this respect, authorizes the release of EUR 0.9 million from the Contingency Fund and to allocate the remaining amount from the 2011 and provisional 2013 cash surplus, with the remaining balance being financed through voluntary contributions;
 10. To task the Secretary General to deploy advance teams within 24 hours of the adoption of this decision.

**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,

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 Government of Ukraine regards adoption of this decision on deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission of international observers to Ukraine as an emergency response of the Organization to the grave conflict around the Autonomous Republic of Crimea that stemmed from military aggression by the Russian Federation aimed at annexing this integral part of Ukraine’s territory. Through its illegal actions, the Russian Federation violated imperative norms of international law, the Helsinki Final Act, bilateral and multilateral agreements, which guarantee Ukraine’s territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and non-intervention in internal affairs of Ukraine.

Amid Russia’s invasion of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and growing tensions therein, Ukraine requested for the establishment of an international mission of observers, including from the OSCE, to establish facts on the ground in Ukraine, including specifically in the Crimean peninsula (PC.DEL/222/14 of 3 March 2014).

In view of the current developments and reflecting upon the existing areas of concern, the Government of Ukraine proceeds from the understanding that the mandate of the mission covers the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and that the deployment of the mission must start from the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine that in the light of the situation on the ground require immediate attention.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1117
21 March 2014
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 U.S. delegation played an active part in the formation of consensus on this important decision. This required considerable effort on the part of all delegations involved in the negotiation process.

In supporting this decision, the U.S. reaffirms our firm commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The illegal ‘referendum’ held on Sunday in Crimea violated the Constitution and the sovereignty of Ukraine, and will not be recognized. Crimea is Ukraine. Only one participating State pretends that it is anything other than Ukraine. It is clear that with the adoption of this decision this mission has a mandate to work in Crimea and in all other parts of Ukraine. We note that all participating States must co-operate with this mission and should take no actions to obstruct its access to Crimea or any other region of Ukraine. We call on all parties involved to take action to reduce tensions and resolve any disputes peacefully through diplomatic means.

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

PC.DEC/1117
21 March 2014
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 Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Canada wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the Permanent Council decision on the deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Canada welcomes the adoption of this decision, and looks forward to the prompt deployment of the monitoring mission. We thank the Swiss Chairmanship for its efforts in achieving this result, as well as the participating States who have assisted in crafting the final text.

In this connection, we wish to reiterate our full support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. As per the mandate we have just agreed, we expect that OSCE monitors will be granted ‘safe and secure access throughout Ukraine’, as defined by the Constitution of Ukraine. In light of the needs on the ground, priority attention should be devoted to the areas of highest concern in the east and south of Ukraine.

Nothing in the decision we have just adopted legitimizes the so-called ‘referendum’ held recently in Crimea under illegal military occupation. This ‘referendum’ has no legal effect, and Canada has not and will not recognize its outcome, nor will we recognize the subsequent decision by Russia to annex Crimea.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1117
21 March 2014
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:

“In joining the consensus regarding the draft decision of the Permanent Council on the deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the Russian Federation proceeds from the assumption that the geographical area of deployment and activities of the mission in question is strictly limited by the parameters of the mandate as adopted today, which reflects the political and legal realities existing since 21 March 2014 as a result of the fact that the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol have become an integral part of the Russian Federation.

Russian experts are willing to take an active part in the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in the interests of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace, stability and security for all the country’s residents.

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