

Chairmanship: Slovakia

1231st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 6 June 2019

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Boháč

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK AND BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (PC.FR/14/19 OSCE+), Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, 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, in alignment) (PC.DEL/649/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/645/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/639/19), Turkey (PC.DEL/647/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/635/19), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/638/19 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/640/19), Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1330 (PC.DEC/1330) on the appointment of the External Auditor, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, France (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision),
Turkey

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/634/19), 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 and Moldova, in alignment) (PC.DEL/650/19), Switzerland (PC.DEL/646/19 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/648/19 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/637/19), Canada
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/633/19), Ukraine
- (c) *Abolition of the death penalty in the US state of New Hampshire*: 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; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/651/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/642/19), Norway (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/641/19)
- (d) *Safety of journalists in Turkey*: 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 Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia and Canada, in alignment) (PC.DEL/652/19), United States of America (PC.DEL/636/19), Turkey

Agenda item 4: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *OSCE Informal Ministerial Gathering, to be held in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, on 8 and 9 July 2019*: Chairperson
- (b) *Consultations ("Dialogues") between the Chairperson-in-Office and the participating States*: Chairperson
- (c) *Ambassadorial retreat to be held in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia, on 13 June 2019*: Chairperson
- (d) *Ambassadorial visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, to take place from 6 to 11 October 2019*: Chairperson

- (e) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Albania and Serbia: Chairperson*
- (f) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Skopje, Sarajevo and Pristina: Chairperson*
- (g) *Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation held on 31 May 2019, and forthcoming meeting of the Informal Working Group, to be held on 7 June 2019: Chairperson*
- (h) *Informal meeting on ways of improving transparency along the Ukrainian-Russian State border, to be held in Vienna on 12 June 2019: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 14th GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, being held from 6 to 8 June 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*
- (b) *OSCE Security Days expert round table on “The OSCE and the Sustainable Development Goals”, held in Vienna on 4 June 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 2019 OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Participation of the Secretary General in an EastWest Institute event on counter-terrorism in Afghanistan, held in Vienna on 5 June 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*
- (e) *Participation of the Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats in a high-level conference entitled “Towards a Europe free from violence against women and girls – Perspectives on the Istanbul Convention: A new horizon and a paradigm change for all stakeholders”, held in Bucharest from 4 to 6 June 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*
- (f) *Expert workshop on “Integrating critical energy network protection into effective disaster risk-reduction policies”, co-organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in Vienna on 31 May 2019: Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/114/19 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Press statement issued by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group on 30 May 2019 (SEC.PR/261/19): France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/642/19 OSCE+), Armenia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 13 June 2019, at 9.30 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.DEC/1330
6 June 2019

Original: ENGLISH

1231st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1231, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1330
APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Article VIII of the Financial Regulations of 27 June 1996 (DOC.PC/1/96) concerning the OSCE External Auditors,

Taking note of the offer of the Court of Audit (*Tribunal de Cuentas*) of Spain to provide external audit services to the OSCE,

Recalling Financial Regulation 8.01, in particular the provision that “the tenure of office shall normally be three years unless otherwise determined by the Permanent Council”,

Decides, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, to extend the appointment of the Court of Audit of Spain as OSCE External Auditor for one additional year, expiring on 30 April 2020.

Pursuant to Financial Regulation 8.01, the costs for travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be reimbursed from the OSCE Unified Budget.

PC.DEC/1330

6 June 2019

Attachment

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

**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 France:

“France would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

France joins the consensus in favour of adopting the decision (PC.DD/9/19) on the extension of the current External Auditor for one year with the following reservations regarding its interpretation:

- The adoption of this decision should have been accompanied by the adoption of the draft decision (PC.DD/14/19) on the appointment of the Court of Accounts (*Cour des Comptes*) of France as External Auditor for the 2020–2023 cycle, in accordance with the spirit of the announcement by the Chairmanship to the Permanent Council on 28 March and the bilateral consultations with the Chairmanship, in which the delegation of France took part. There had been no objection to the candidature of the Court of Accounts, proposed and known for more than a year, until now.
- The objection raised today by one delegation to adoption of the decision on the Court of Accounts is based on arguments unconnected with the subject of the decision or the quality of the candidature of the Court of Accounts. OSCE Financial Regulation 8.01 states: ‘A fully qualified External Auditor who meets internationally accepted auditing standards shall be appointed by the Permanent Council upon nomination by participating States.’
- Consequently, we expect the draft decision (PC.DD/14/19) on the appointment of the Court of Accounts of France as External Auditor for the 2020–2023 cycle to be adopted without delay by the Permanent Council.

The delegation of France requests the Chairmanship to attach this statement to the adopted decision and also to include it in the journal of the day.”