
Chairmanship: Sweden**1320th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 17 June 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 6.05 p.m.

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

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

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE CHIEF OBSERVER OF THE OSCE
OBSERVER MISSION AT TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS
ON THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Chairperson, Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (PC.FR/21/21 OSCE+) (PC.FR/25/21 OSCE+), Portugal-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, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/987/21), Hungary (PC.DEL/939/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/933/21), Turkey, United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/935/21 OSCE+), Ukraine, Canada, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/938/21)

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE CENTRE IN
ASHGABAT

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (PC.FR/20/21 OSCE+) (PC.FR/26/21 OSCE+), Portugal-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; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/988/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/940/21), United States of America (PC.DEL/980/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/962/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/934/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Norway (PC.DEL/944/21), Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Canada, Turkmenistan

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/936/21), Portugal-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/990/21), Canada, Turkey (PC.DEL/960/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/937/21), United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/943/21 OSCE+)
- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/949/21), Ukraine
- (c) *Eightieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War*: Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (Annex 1), Portugal-European Union, Lithuania (PC.DEL/964/21)
- (d) *Violations of human rights in the European Union*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/950/21), Portugal-European Union, France (Annex 2), Germany (Annex 3), Netherlands (Annex 4), Portugal (Annex 5), Czech Republic (Annex 6), Spain (Annex 7), Belgium (Annex 8), Romania (Annex 9), Denmark (Annex 10), Bulgaria (Annex 11), Greece (Annex 12), Austria
- (e) *Latest confidence-building measures in the humanitarian sphere between Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of the peace-building process*: Azerbaijan (Annex 13), Turkey (Annex 14)

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

- (a) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Ukraine from 13 to 15 June 2021*: Chairperson
- (b) *Forthcoming visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to North Macedonia on 21 and 22 June 2021*: Chairperson
- (c) *Appointments of Ambassador S. Bermann as Co-ordinator of the Political Working Group and of Ms. C. Relander as Co-ordinator of the Humanitarian*

Working Group of the Trilateral Contact Group, both as of 1 July 2021:
Chairperson

- (d) *Retreat organized by the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship for the three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination issues, held in the week of 14 June 2021:* Chairperson

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Thematic report on “Stepping up efforts to communicate the OSCE’s impact to young people”:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/82/21 OSCE+), Albania, Spain (also on behalf of Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America) (Annex 15), Russian Federation, Portugal-European Union, Norway, Italy, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Turkey
- (b) *Meeting of the Secretary General with the Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland, H.E. Mr. Thomas Byrne, on 10 June 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)
- (c) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Promoting comprehensive security, stability and sustainable development in the OSCE area through women’s economic empowerment”, held via video teleconference on 10 and 11 June 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)
- (d) *OSCE Secretariat senior management retreat, held on 11 June 2021:* Secretary General
- (e) *Visit of the Secretary General to Georgia on 14 and 15 June 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)
- (f) *Participation of the Secretary General in the 21st Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons on “Confronting Demand: Tackling a root cause of trafficking in human beings”, held from 14 to 16 June 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)
- (g) *Security Chat between the Secretary General and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH) on “The Framework for Arms Control in the Age of Emerging Technologies”, held on 16 June 2021:* Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/21/Corr.1 OSCE+)
- (h) *Forthcoming visit of the Secretary General to Moscow from 21 to 25 June 2021:* Secretary General

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 24 June 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/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS,
KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN
AND UZBEKISTAN)**

On 22 June 2021, it will be 80 years since that day on which Hitler's Third Reich treacherously attacked the USSR: it was the start of the Great Patriotic War. That war proved to be one of the darkest but at the same time most heroic episodes in world history. With their evil deeds, including the Holocaust, the Nazis inflicted searing wounds on all the peoples of the Soviet Union and on millions of people worldwide.

A massive humanitarian catastrophe was the result of the aggressive aspirations of those who were convinced of their own racial superiority and exclusivity and believed themselves entitled to decide single-handedly the fates of other countries and peoples.

But we were victorious in this war against absolute evil. The Red Army was able to slow down and then stop Hitler's death machine in its tracks. All the peoples of the Soviet Union played their part in the victory. They bore the brunt of the Nazi onslaught, opposed it with self-sacrificing resistance and, after enduring the greatest trials and tribulations, determined the outcome of that war and brought liberation to other peoples by crushing the enemy – for which, in so doing, they paid the highest price. It was precisely with the entry of the Soviet Union into the Second World War that the hostilities irreversibly became global in nature and that, as a counterweight to the bloc of aggressor States, the anti-Hitler coalition began to take shape.

We will never forget that victory in the Second World War and the deliverance of the peoples of Europe from enslavement and destruction were achieved thanks to the unprecedented courage and selflessness of front-line soldiers, partisans, members of the anti-fascist resistance and underground movement, and those toiling on the home front – indeed, thanks to the unity of all peoples of the Soviet Union. It is our shared victory. We pay tribute to the millions of people of different nationalities and faiths who laid down their lives for the triumph of freedom and justice.

However, today we may observe a cynical striving to consign to oblivion the lessons of that terrible war; to present distorted moral and legal evaluations of its outcomes; to give equal rights to victims and executioners, to liberators and aggressors; and to call into question the judgments of the Nuremberg Tribunal. We consistently and firmly reject any attempts aimed at revising the events and outcomes of the Second World War, whitewashing Nazism and its accomplices, or “justifying” their monstrous crimes.

We condemn any form of glorification of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS. We consider such glorification to be a brazen desecration of the millions who fell on the battlefields fighting Nazism and fascism, were brutally tortured in prisons by the Nazis, and were burned and gassed to death in concentration camps. It is unacceptable to create a breeding ground for those who try to propagate new hate-filled, extremist ideologies. We strongly believe that one must not close one’s eyes to such phenomena for the sake of opportunistic interests: it is essential to combat them resolutely. In that respect, we note the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 16 December 2020 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We emphasize the need to preserve and properly look after war graves and war memorials. The campaign against memorials to the liberator soldiers that has been launched by a number of countries in the OSCE area is unacceptable from both an ethical and a historical point of view.

Eight decades after that sorrowful day, we once again call for reflection on the lessons from this tragic period in the history of our civilization. We advocate a revival of genuine co-operation and mutual understanding among countries and peoples on the basis of equality, mutual respect and universal democratic values. It is up to the international community today whether or not the world is once again to find itself on a cliff edge.



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

France aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Since France was mentioned by our distinguished colleague representing the Russian Federation, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

France reiterates the importance it attaches to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of opinion and freedom of peaceful assembly, and also to tolerance and non-discrimination.

With regard to the two demonstrations mentioned earlier, they were accompanied by security measures in order to ensure the safety of the demonstrators, in accordance with the law and as is systematically done in such cases. The use of force by the law enforcement authorities is strictly regulated by French law, and the French Government ensures that this use is controlled, proportionate and monitored, as provided for by law and in accordance with our international commitments. In France, any persons who believe themselves to be the victims of unwarranted violence in connection with a demonstration can report it and file a complaint.

Our distinguished colleague also mentioned the protest movement that shook the entire world after the death of George Floyd. This movement has reminded us all that racist acts, discrimination, hate speech and wanton violence have no place in our societies and that the fight for justice and equality must be pursued relentlessly. The French Government is uncompromising when it comes to racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and discrimination in general, including within its law enforcement authorities. When racist remarks are made or racist acts committed, accountability must be established and the misconduct punished, since service in these authorities entails the expectation of exemplary conduct. That is why decisions have been announced to the effect that, beyond the disciplinary or judicial investigation normally undertaken, a provisional suspension is systematically considered once a racist, sexist, anti-Semitic or other discriminatory act has been demonstrated.

Under the National Plan Against Racism and Anti-Semitism adopted in 2018, any police officer on active duty can turn to a focal point for racism and anti-Semitism in their département for assistance with their efforts to prevent, detect and suppress racist acts. Since 2018 too, it has been possible to report discriminatory behaviour – in particular, racist

behaviour – within the National Police by contacting a reporting unit established there for that purpose.

We expect the same high standards and the same level of commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms from all the participating States without exception.

Mr. Chairperson, please attach our statement to the journal of the day.



1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

I agree completely with the reaction of the European Union. Since an esteemed colleague also mentioned my country, however, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

Before I address the points raised by my Russian colleague in relation to my country, let me first state the following. I sincerely hope that my Russian colleague's remarks are not another attempt to counter failings in his own country by way of relativization.

On the individual points mentioned by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation:

1. Germany is a country of diversity. Combating all forms of group-related misanthropy is a top political priority for the Federal Government, especially at a time of the great challenges for State and society as a result of the pandemic. With that in mind, I draw attention to the work of the Cabinet Committee on Combating Right-Wing Extremism and Racism. The Cabinet Committee's final report from the end of last year contains remarks on the specific implementation of 89 individual measures.
2. Regarding the incidents in Lithuania, the responsible disciplinary officers started investigations on 8 June, immediately after becoming aware of the incidents, and informed the Federal Ministry of Defence. Such behaviour by individuals is not only inexcusable but also simply disgraceful. The Inspector General of the German Armed Forces has made contact with his Lithuanian counterpart. The Minister of Defence has repeatedly underlined that we will act against all cases with the greatest severity and determination.
3. Regarding the incident in Frankfurt, video sequences of the incident have been posted on social media. However, these video clips depict only a brief extract of the entire event and in particular do not show the initial situation. The fact is that the police in Frankfurt were notified of an incident concerning three men fighting in public. When the police intervened, the three men attacked the police officers and violently resisted arrest. One of the three had to be handcuffed because of his particularly forceful resistance. During his subsequent questioning, it turned out that the man was suffering from severe psychosis owing to drug use. After the police had concluded their procedures, he was placed in a psychiatric facility.

4. My Russian colleague repeatedly admonishes us in this forum – and today is no exception – to argue on the basis of facts. I am all the more surprised that he did not cite the source for the number of incidents of unlawful police violence mentioned by him. To speculate on this basis about incidents in subsequent years is simply unsound.

Allow me to make the following comments. According to police crime statistics, there were in total around 5 million offences registered by the police in Germany in 2019 and around 2 million suspects. When it comes to punishing criminal offences, every case of unlawful police violence is one too many. The police and the judiciary punish these cases. Police officers are continuously trained to further reduce the low level of unlawful police violence.

Thank you.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

In response to the statement made by the Russian delegation, I would like to briefly exercise my right of reply.

The OSCE is a forum in which participating States can engage in dialogue on issues related to the commitments we have all agreed to. This applies with respect to the situations in all participating States, including the Netherlands.

I would like to thank the Russian delegation for drawing attention to the recent publication of the Fundamental Rights Report 2021 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

The Fundamental Rights Agency is an independent centre of reference and excellence for promoting and protecting human rights in the European Union. The reports of the FRA are highly appreciated within the European Union and identify both achievements and areas of concern. These reports help the European Union and its Member States to further improve the human rights situation in the 27 countries of the European Union.

Unfortunately, the Russian delegation only focused on the areas of concern and left out the achievements, which are also included in the report.

The Netherlands takes the criticism made in these reports seriously and we hope that the Russian Federation will do the same with respect to criticism of and independent reports on the human rights situation in Russia.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1320
17 June 2021
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Portugal fully aligns itself with the declaration of the European Union, but since our country was mentioned by the distinguished delegation of the Russian Federation, we would like to exercise our right of reply.

Portugal is well known for its established position of strong support for economic, social and cultural rights. In particular, the protection of health is ensured by the State and enshrined in our constitution. To this end, Portugal has put in place a universal, general and free national health system. In fact, the right to health is embedded in our democratic regime.

Regarding corruption, we would like to recall that a national strategy has recently been adopted in order to enhance our efforts in addressing the phenomenon.

Portugal has no problem about acknowledging its shortcomings – which we believe Russia should also do. The selective choice of a partial set of data from one study on public opinion perception cannot reflect our national reality accurately. Our commitment to the protection of health and to the fight against corruption is unwavering.

Thank you and I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1320
17 June 2021
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Mr. Chairperson,

We fully support the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

As the Czech Republic was mentioned in the statement of our distinguished Russian colleague, allow me to use my right of reply for a short comment.

The survey of Transparency International published this week on corruption in the European Union under the pandemic states that 54 per cent of the Czechs surveyed contacted their acquaintances in order to access medical services faster. The fight against corruption is indeed a continuous process that all countries need to engage in relentlessly.

Nevertheless, let me also point out that within Transparency International's global Corruption Perceptions Index, the Czech Republic takes 49th place, which – when compared to Russia's 129th place – seems to give considerably more hope to ordinary citizens with regard to the possible solving of the problem in my country.

Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 7

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Madam Chairperson,

Spain fully supports the statement by the European Union on this subject and, in addition, wishes to avail itself of its right of reply to the statement by the representative of the Russian Federation.

In the words of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has provoked a “tsunami of hatred and xenophobia” affecting many countries around the world, including the Russian Federation, as noted in numerous reports such as that of Human Rights Watch.

Fortunately, this destructive tsunami has not reached Spain with the force it has in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, the annual reports by the Ministry of Interior on the evolution of hate crimes in Spain show an increase in the number of complaints of racial and/or ethnic discrimination.

Spain has numerous instruments at its disposal to tackle this scourge. At the regulatory level, there is the 2011 Comprehensive Strategy against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. This instrument was pioneering and innovative in this area. For its part, the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE) has proved to be an essential instrument for better understanding the phenomenon of xenophobia in Spain so as to be able to act effectively against intolerance and xenophobia.

The management of the COVID-19 pandemic has also been a challenge for our democracies and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In an exercise of transparency and responsibility, Spain promptly informed the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the declaration of a state of alarm and its subsequent extensions, in accordance with the provisions of the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1991). The declaration of a state of alarm as provided for by the Spanish Constitution has always been subject to parliamentary renewal and judicial review.

Thank you.

I ask the Chairmanship to include this statement in the journal of the Permanent Council meeting.



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 8

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM**

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. As the country I represent has been mentioned, I wished to take this opportunity to recall the very great importance that Belgium attaches to the fight against all forms of discrimination, racism, hatred, intolerance and xenophobia.

To help us in this task, the Member States of the European Union can avail themselves of the Agency for Fundamental Rights, an independent centre of reference for the promotion and protection of human rights in the European Union, based here in Vienna.

At the national level, Belgium has an independent public institution, the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (Unia), to combat discrimination and promote equal opportunities, as well as the Federal Migration Centre (Myria), a body that analyses migration, defends the rights of foreigners and combats smuggling of and trafficking in human beings.

The reports by these independent bodies are of great utility. The focuses but also the best practices they identify guide us in our ongoing efforts to ensure the universality of human rights.

Therefore, I thank my esteemed colleague from the Russian Federation for bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council the Fundamental Rights Report 2021, published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Belgium continues to intensify its efforts to promote respect and tolerance, which are vital for ensuring a harmonious existence for everyone in a diverse society. For example, in February 2020, the Belgian Government set up an interministerial conference to co-ordinate anti-racism initiatives at the national level. This should lead in 2021 to the adoption of a national action plan against racism and the continuous monitoring of its implementation.

The plan will include measures in the areas of employment, security, education, health and welfare, media, youth and culture, sport and housing. We are pleased that the

highly inclusive nature of this initiative was discussed at the OSCE Human Dimension Committee last May.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Romania aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Since the name of my country has been mentioned by the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, I would like to briefly exercise my right of reply in a national capacity.

Romania remains deeply committed to the protection and promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms, the rule of law, good governance and transparency. Romania is firmly engaged in ensuring equal treatment and equal opportunities, fostering social and economic inclusion. Combating and preventing discrimination, including the fight against multiple discrimination that affects persons belonging to Roma and Sinti remains a priority of our authorities. We are fully aware of the difficult situation faced by some persons belonging to Roma and Sinti confronted with economic and social problems exacerbated by the current pandemic. In close consultation with the Roma community, the authorities are implementing appropriate measures, at all levels, to ensure that their rights are fully and equally respected.

Regarding the figures cited with regard to the levels of corruption in the healthcare sector, I would like to point out that while corruption is likely to affect all States, it is important to openly and efficiently fight against it. Democratic mechanisms, the rule of law and human rights are the main instruments to respond to this challenge.

Therefore, we strongly reject the allegations, misuse of data, selective compilation of out of context information, either in the Permanent Council or in any other setting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.



1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK**

Madam Chairperson,

In response to the statement made by the Russian delegation and in addition to the statement on behalf of the European Union Member States, I would like to briefly exercise my right of reply.

The OSCE is a platform for dialogue on issues related to our shared commitments. This applies to situations in all participating States, including Denmark. So I would like to thank the Russian delegation for raising issues focused on in the Fundamental Rights Report 2021.

The inherent dignity and equal rights of all individuals as formulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be self-evident.

Yet, people across the whole OSCE area continue to fall victim to racism and discrimination because of their race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, social status or other characteristics, in Denmark as elsewhere. As stated in the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights report “OSCE Human Dimension Commitments and State Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic”, the pandemic has added new layers of complexity to the already difficult task of addressing racism and discrimination, exacerbating it through intolerant discourse and scapegoating of minorities. States need to take this into account when responding to the pandemic.

Racism and discrimination are unacceptable in all their forms and manifestations, wherever they exist and however they are expressed or practised.

We as States all have a responsibility to fulfil our commitments to ensure inclusive, tolerant and equal societies for all persons, without discrimination of any kind.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights is an important tool in this regard, which we have mandated to provide independent and evidence-based advice to the European Union and national decision makers. We take the content of each annual report very seriously and we hope that the Russian Federation will do the same when receiving

criticism and advice from independent human rights institutions, whether national, regional or international.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Member States of the European Union. Since my country was mentioned in the statement by the distinguished Russian delegation, I should like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The fight against corruption is among the main priorities of the Bulgarian Government. It is an important prerequisite for ensuring that the basic principles of the rule of law and good governance are upheld.

Bulgaria implements the provisions of the main international instruments that have been adopted to combat corruption. We participate in the mechanisms established by the relevant international organizations for monitoring the application of anti-corruption standards.

Bulgaria pays due attention to the reports prepared by human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations on issues related to the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. We are stepping up our efforts to address existing and emerging challenges, including the challenges involved in combating corruption and ensuring equal access to health services for all our citizens. Any reported instances of corruption will be diligently investigated by the competent authorities.

Thank you.

I would kindly ask for this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1320

17 June 2021

Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GREECE**

Mr. Chairperson,

It was not my intention to intervene in the discussion, but since the esteemed Russian Ambassador mentioned my country, I should like to briefly exercise my right of reply – as a complement, of course, to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, which fully reflects the Greek delegation's position on the matters referred to therein.

Freedom of assembly is wholly guaranteed by the Constitution of Greece and the relevant implementing legislation. Furthermore – and this is equally important – exercise of the right to peaceful assembly is a deeply rooted tradition within Greek society and this right is fully realized in practice.

In that regard, the Greek police apply appropriate measures, always keeping the general public interest in mind.

To conclude, I would underline that Greece is fully committed to safeguarding the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

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



1320th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on the recent confidence-building measure in the humanitarian sphere implemented between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

According to the agreement reached with the support and assistance of our international partners, on 12 June 2021, in exchange for providing Azerbaijan with maps of 97,000 mines, including 54,000 anti-tank and 43,000 anti-personnel mines planted in the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan, 15 detained Armenians were handed over to Armenia on the Azerbaijani-Georgian border with the participation of Georgian representatives.

Azerbaijan highly appreciates the support of the Georgian Government headed by Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili for the realization of this humanitarian action. We also emphasize the important mediation role played by the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Reeker, President of the European Council Charles Michel and the Swedish Chairmanship of the OSCE, and thank them for their respective efforts in this process.

We wish to stress that it is not for the first time that Azerbaijan has released Armenian detainees. We informed the Permanent Council about previous cases of release and repatriation of Armenian detainees to the Armenian side by Azerbaijan, as a humanitarian gesture without pressing charges against them. We are thankful for the active role played by the Russian Federation in this process.

The latest confidence-building measure involving the exchange of maps of the mined areas and detainees can be considered part of the broader process of stabilization and normalization of the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the aftermath of the signing of the trilateral statement by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation on 10 November 2020.

The implementation of this confidence-building measure once again serves as a clear indication that Armenia possesses a large amount of maps of the mined areas in Azerbaijan. This fact was further reconfirmed in the public statements of the Armenian

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in the aftermath of the implementation of the humanitarian action.

We encourage Armenia to build on the success of the recent humanitarian measure and continue engaging constructively with the international community and actors in the region for releasing the remaining maps of the mined areas in Azerbaijan. Obtaining these maps is of immense importance from a humanitarian standpoint, as this helps save the lives of innocent civilians, including those engaged in demining activities both from Azerbaijan and other countries. Full release of the maps of the mined territories will also facilitate the implementation of post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and re-integration projects for ensuring the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons to their homes. This will also build trust and confidence between Armenia and Azerbaijan, contributing to post-conflict reconciliation and normalization of our inter-State relations and the ultimate consolidation of peace and stability in the region.

As it is clearly seen on the photos of released Armenian detainees shared on social media, they have been treated well while being in Azerbaijan's custody. This was also confirmed by the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross during their visits to detained persons. This demonstrates that the accusations of Armenia that Armenian detainees are being killed and tortured in Azerbaijan's custody are baseless and lack any factual evidence.

We would like to reiterate that Azerbaijan treats all Armenian detainees with full respect to their dignity and human rights in accordance with international human rights law and Azerbaijani laws. In view of Armenia's repeated mischaracterization of this issue, Azerbaijan is doing its utmost to ensure greater transparency regarding their basis for detention, conditions of confinement and disposition. Azerbaijan remains committed to upholding its international obligations, including by ensuring that the individuals it detains are treated humanely and are subject to just and lawful dispositions.

We stress once again that Azerbaijan does not subject Armenian servicemen to prolonged detention without due legal process, which is continuing, and regarding which we give updates to the Permanent Council. Consistent with its laws, Azerbaijan continues to investigate and conduct a detailed review of all individuals who were detained after the signing of the trilateral statement to assess the evidence against them. Those detainees who committed crimes on the territory of Azerbaijan face criminal charges. Others, as was the case with the Armenian serviceman Artur Kartanyan, who, on 8 June, apparently, accidentally crossed into the territory of Azerbaijan in the Lachyn district, are returned to Armenia. In a similar vein, Armenian civilians who cross the border with Azerbaijan and whose aim is not to commit any criminal acts, are returned to the Armenian side, as it has been the case several times with Armenian farmers and shepherds.

At the same time, Azerbaijan expects Armenia to fulfil its own obligations under international humanitarian law. Maps of the mined areas have to be provided not after but before the tragic cases resulting in the loss of human lives, as was the case most recently on 4 June 2021 when three Azerbaijani civilians, including two journalists were killed and four other civilians were seriously injured as a result of a mine explosion. Furthermore, we remind that Armenia has yet to deliver on its obligation to release information on the whereabouts of close to 4,000 Azerbaijanis who went missing due to the war in the early 1990s.

The implementation of such steps in the humanitarian field could ultimately pave the way for the consolidation of the fragile peace that emerged in our region with the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. The trilateral statement provides a unique opportunity and clear guidance for attaining durable peace, security and stability in our region and thus, must be implemented in a comprehensive manner without reservations. Moreover, we emphasize the importance of the trilateral statement of 11 January 2021 signed by the leaders of the three countries, which envisages the implementation of a number of practical steps to remove obstacles to all economic and transport links in the region.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its determination to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of internationally recognized borders. As it was expressed at the highest political level, Azerbaijan is also ready to work with Armenia on the peace treaty based on these principles. The establishment of good-neighbourly relations on this basis has no alternative for long-term peace and stability in the region.

In the relatively short period of time since the signing of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement, Azerbaijan has taken several steps to demonstrate its true intention to normalize relations with Armenia in practice. This includes the smooth operation of Goris-Qafan road, a section of which runs through the territory of Azerbaijan. Almost immediately after the end of hostilities the Azerbaijani side opened the transportation communications, including railways and international airports, for humanitarian supplies to the Armenian population of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has also provided its infrastructure for natural gas supplies from Russia to Armenia in view of the difficulty encountered in the operation of the transit pipeline through the territory of Georgia.

Azerbaijan expects reciprocity, a similar constructive approach and political will from Armenia, which must finally abandon its confrontation-based approach and zero-sum mentality in relations with its neighbours and capitalize on opportunities for peace instead of treating them as challenges. There is no other alternative to Armenia for bringing about sustainable peace and stability to the region but to work towards good neighbourly relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The historic visit of President Erdogan of Turkey to Shusha city of Azerbaijan on 15 June and the signing of the Shusha Declaration in the framework of that visit has signified a new milestone in the development of the whole region. We once again encourage Armenia and the OSCE to seize a unique chance for consolidating peace and stability in the region and capitalizing on the prospects for regional development and co-operation.

On a final note, we reiterate the importance of confidence-building steps between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the humanitarian sphere. Azerbaijan is ready to work with our partners, including the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, for implementing further initiatives in this direction and realizing the vision of a prosperous, stable and secure South Caucasus region in support of the two aforementioned trilateral statements.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1320
17 June 2021
Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 3(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We thank the delegation of Azerbaijan for informing the Permanent Council of the latest developments and of the steps taken by Azerbaijan.

We welcome Azerbaijan's return of 15 Armenian detainees. This constitutes a good-willed step and deserves praise.

Clearing the mines in the de-occupied territories of Azerbaijan is of the utmost importance. Turkey continues to support Azerbaijan in its efforts to that end. We concur with Azerbaijan on there being an urgent need for an international response.

We took note that Armenia released some maps of mined areas in the territory of Azerbaijan. We second Azerbaijan's call for the remaining maps of mined areas to be released as well, and for the whereabouts of close to 4,000 missing Azerbaijanis to be clarified. Such steps would be in line with the positive spirit created by the signing of the two trilateral statements.

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to take this opportunity to repeat the important messages of President Erdoğan during his recent visit to Azerbaijan.

As Turkey, we want to transform our relations with our neighbours in the region into a deeper co-operation. We hope that Armenia will hold the hand extended in good faith for co-operation and make good use of the opportunity to shape the future together. It is our biggest wish that this historic opportunity will not be missed because of unrealistic aspirations, rhetoric and actions. Anyone who wants to contribute to the new situation in the region must abandon the politics of hatred and provocation and must rather encourage co-operation. If such an atmosphere emerges, Turkey will do its part as well for normalization with Armenia.

We believe that this promising process will advance in much more reliable manner if Azerbaijan and Armenia crown their ceasefire agreement with a comprehensive and visionary peace agreement.

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/1320
17 June 2021
Annex 15

Original: ENGLISH

1320th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1320, Agenda item 5(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN (ALSO ON BEHALF OF
KYRGYZSTAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Dear Madam Secretary General, on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security, Spain, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the United States of America, I welcome your thematic report on the Secretariat's work with and for young women and men.

The Group of Friends Co-Chairs believe increased attention to the youth, peace, and security agenda is both timely and important. Young people comprise nearly 30 per cent of the OSCE area's more than one billion people and represent a vast and valuable resource to help us address the many and complex security challenges facing our area.

In this regard, we welcome the Secretariat's assistance to participating States and support provided to advance the Swedish Chairmanship's work in this area. We commend the activities of Secretariat's Youth Focal Point to make the youth, peace, and security agenda more central to the OSCE's work.

We welcome also the engagement of the OSCE executive structures, institutions and field operations on youth-related issues and encourage more routine exchanges of best practices of youth engagement initiatives among OSCE field operations.

We welcome your encouragement that participating States consider how the youth, peace, and security agenda can be reflected in the OSCE's work. Through meetings of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security, the Co-Chairs will continue to highlight, promote, and discuss initiatives "with and for youth" led by the OSCE, participating States and young leaders from across the area. We invite all participating States and Partners for Co-operation to actively engage in these debates with the aim of advancing this agenda. We underscore that participating States are committed to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including young persons, as they lend their voices and contribute their efforts to shaping the life of their communities, their countries, and the international community.

In closing, we thank you, Madam Secretary General, for your leadership and for your ongoing support of the youth-related work of Group of Friends, the Chairperson-in-Office, and the Troika. We share your assessment that fulfilling our youth-related commitments and

attaining our goal of truly comprehensive security will require recognizing and addressing the needs, perspectives, and aspirations of the region's youth.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.