



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

PC.DEC/1172
18 June 2015

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1060th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1060, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1172
EXTENSION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF OSCE OBSERVERS TO
TWO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINTS ON THE
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER**

The Permanent Council,

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

Decides:

1. To extend the mandate of the deployment of OSCE observers to the two Russian border checkpoints of Donetsk and Gukovo on the Russian-Ukrainian border until 30 September 2015;
2. To approve the arrangements and the financial and human resources for the Observer Mission as contained in document PC.ACMF/38/15. In this respect, authorizes the use of the 2014 year-end revision to fund the proposed budget of 219,700 euros for the duration of the present mandate.

**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 United States finds it deeply regrettable that, once again, the Russian Federation rejected expanding the geographic scope of the Observer Mission, despite the clear, strong, and continued support from other participating States for expanding the Mission – support that was again expressed in the Permanent Council and a meeting on the mandate for the Observer Mission last week. We once again have to accept a limited-scope mission covering just two border checkpoints, which account for just a few hundred meters of the 2,300 kilometer border.

Due to Russia’s unnecessary restrictions of its work, the Mission will continue to be unable to ascertain the extent to which Russia is participating in or facilitating the flow of illegal arms, funding, and personnel to support the separatists in eastern Ukraine, or to gather sufficient information that could indicate in any meaningful way the extent to which Russia is taking any action to stop that flow of support to those separatists.

We note that Step 4 of the 5 September Minsk Protocol delineates a clear role for the OSCE in monitoring and verification on both sides of the Ukrainian-Russian international border, and the creation of a security zone in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. There are strong linkages between ceasefire monitoring and border monitoring, and it is tragic that the OSCE approach to these activities has been impeded by one participating State. The Russian Federation’s repeated refusal to allow expansion of the scope of this mission raises serious questions about its resolve to implement critical elements of the Minsk Protocol.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

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

We note that since the adoption of the Berlin Declaration of 2 July 2014, the security situation in the east of Ukraine has deteriorated due to the activities of the Russia-backed illegal armed groups operating in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which receive reinforcements and armaments from the territory of the Russian Federation.

This situation confirms that the deployment of the OSCE observers only to two Russian checkpoints will not allow to effectively address the existing grave challenges along the Ukrainian-Russian State border which was of primary concern at the meeting in Berlin.

The Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 which was also signed by representative of the Russian Federation envisages in paragraph 4 the OSCE permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification with the creation of security zone in border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

We therefore deeply regret that the Russian Federation has again refused to support the proposal for significantly expanding the currently limited mandate of OSCE observers at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border which would provide consistency with the arrangements reached in Minsk. Such position of the Russian Federation has again put into serious question its commitment to implementing agreed arrangements, its commitment to de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

We continue to deem it as imperative to have substantial and broad OSCE monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian border. It is necessary for stabilization and peace to strengthen the OSCE monitoring on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border, expanding the mandate of the OSCE Observation Mission at the Russian border checkpoints ‘Gukovo’ and ‘Donetsk’ to all sections of the border, adjacent to the terrorist-controlled areas of Donbas.

We urge Russia to withdraw its military units from Donbas, halt reinforcements of its proxies in Donetsk and Luhansk, thus implementing the Minsk agreements it has signed.

We call on the Russian Federation to demonstrate its commitment to implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith, to allow proper and comprehensive permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border and verification by the OSCE, and to agree to expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Mission at two Russian checkpoints.

We reiterate that resumption of efficient control at the Ukrainian-Russian border under the OSCE monitoring is critical for sustainable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

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.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

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

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

The European Union’s views on the vital importance of border monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian State border in view of information about the continuing inflow of military equipment and personnel into Ukraine from Russia are well known. Border and ceasefire monitoring remain very closely interlinked. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian State border should be an integral part of a sustainable political solution, which fully upholds OSCE principles, and re-establishes Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We recall that the Minsk Protocol calls for effective monitoring of the border and verification by the OSCE and that the Minsk Package of implementation measures includes a commitment to re-establishing Ukrainian control over its border.

While highly valuing the work and dedication of Chief Observer Picard and his team, the OSCE Observer Mission’s currently very limited mandate and its small size does not provide for a comprehensive border monitoring. We therefore reiterate our call for a significant expansion of the Observer Mission to all border crossings currently not under control of the Ukrainian Government as well as monitoring between these border crossings. This should be supported and co-ordinated with border monitoring on the Ukrainian side of the border by the SMM. We therefore reiterate our call for the SMM to have safe, free and unfettered access to the Ukrainian side of the border currently under separatist control.

We regret that the Russian Federation continues to oppose an expansion of the Observer Mission.”

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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Attachment 4

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“The Russian Federation joined the consensus on the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the team of OSCE observers at the two Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border for three months until 30 September 2015 on the basis of the following considerations.

We continue to regard the work of this team as an important additional confidence-building measure. We were prepared to show flexibility and agree to an extension of its mandate for six months in view of the fact that short-term extensions only complicate the financial and personnel aspects of the work of the team of OSCE observers unnecessarily. We regret that despite the broad support for this option among the OSCE delegations, it was blocked by Ukraine for reasons that we do not understand. If there is no interest in the stable and long-term functioning of this team, we will take this position of the Ukrainian authorities into account when adopting a decision on the possible extension of the team’s mandate for the next period.

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

The agreements reached in Minsk in no way touch upon questions regarding the deployment of OSCE observers on the Russian side of the border with Ukraine. It is reliably patrolled by the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. The decision to allow OSCE observers on our territory and the presence of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers at Russian checkpoints in the absence of a full-scale peace settlement are solely a goodwill gesture on our part.

As for the Ukrainian side of the border, Ukraine bears complete responsibility for its security and for reaching agreements with the forces that control the situation on the ground on the deployment of international observers there.

I request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included as an annex to the journal of the day.”