

**Chairmanship: Sweden**

**1344th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 11 November 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Suspended: 1 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 3.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/1781/21), Russian Federation (Annex 1), Switzerland, Turkey (PC.DEL/1777/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1761/21), Norway (PC.DEL/1762/21), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1774/21), Georgia (PC.DEL/1770/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/1775/21), 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/1780/21), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1778/21 OSCE+), Switzerland, Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1763/21)

- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1767/21)
- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters*: Armenia (Annex 2)
- (d) *First anniversary of Victory Day (8 November) in the Republic of Azerbaijan*: Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Turkey (Annex 4)
- (e) *Violations of the rights of the media in Estonia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1766/21), Estonia
- (f) *Situation at the European Union border*: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1782/21), Poland, Norway (also on behalf of Iceland and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1765/21), United Kingdom (also on behalf of Canada), Switzerland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein) (PC.DEL/1772/21 OSCE+), Lithuania (Annex 5), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1776/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1768/21), Turkey (PC.DEL/1779/21 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1771/21 OSCE+)

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

- (a) *Deadline for the conclusion of negotiations on the text of documents to be adopted at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, fixed at 26 November 2021*: Chairperson
- (b) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Moscow, to take place on 18 and 19 November 2021*: Chairperson
- (c) *Situation at the border between Belarus and the European Union*: Chairperson
- (d) *Update on restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic*: Chairperson
- (e) *Third ambassadorial retreat, to be held in Vienna on 22 November 2021*: Chairperson
- (f) *Human Dimension Seminar on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Girls, to be held in Warsaw and via video teleconference on 16 and 17 November 2021*: Chairperson

Agenda item 4:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a)    *Update on the COVID-19 situation across the OSCE executive structures:*  
Secretary General
- (b)    *Upcoming thematic report by the Secretary General on the response to the implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE region:* Secretary General
- (c)    *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Commander of the Border Guard Service of Tajikistan, Colonel General R. Rahmonali, held on 8 November 2021:* Secretary General
- (d)    *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5 November 2021:* Secretary General
- (e)    *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna, Mr. M. Pančeski, on 9 November 2021:* Secretary General
- (f)    *Meeting between the Secretary General and the Acting Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Mr. M. Popowski, on 10 November 2021:*  
Secretary General

Agenda item 5:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Early parliamentary elections in Portugal, to be held on 30 January 2022:* Portugal

4.    Next meeting:

Thursday, 18 November 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/1344  
11 November 2021  
Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1344th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1344, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Madam Chairperson,

We are delighted to welcome the distinguished Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus, namely Ambassadors Ayşe Cihan Sultanoğlu (from the United Nations), Annika Söder (from the OSCE) and Toivo Klaar (from the European Union).

We are pleased to note that, despite the unfavourable conditions due to the pandemic, it has been possible to maintain steady dialogue within the framework of the Geneva platform. Three rounds of talks have already taken place this year. Another meeting is scheduled to take place in Switzerland in early December, and we hope that it will be a substantive one. Meetings are held regularly under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) on the Georgian-South Ossetian border in Ergnet. The next date for proceedings in this format has already been agreed on. There is an ongoing comparison of notes, as it were, across capitals thanks to the visits by the Co-Chairs to the Trans-Caucasus region.

The intensity of these contacts once again confirms the importance of, and absence of an alternative to, the Geneva Discussions as a unique multilateral platform that makes it possible to maintain constant, direct and inclusive dialogue among the official representatives of Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia. We, of course, welcome this fact and confirm Russia's openness to engaging with the Co-Chairs of the Geneva Discussions and their participants in facilitating such a dialogue.

We, too, want to see progress achieved in the joint efforts on the main items on the Geneva agenda. We expect substantive discussion on key issues, including the top priority of ensuring lasting and reliable security for Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The resolution of this fundamental task is inextricably linked with the conclusion of a legally binding agreement on the non-use of force between the Georgian Government, on the one hand, and the authorities in Sukhum and Tskhinval, on the other. We call on the Co-Chairs to step up their efforts to persuade the Georgian Government to adopt a depoliticized, pragmatic and reality-based approach.

We welcome the attention paid by the Co-Chairs to the issue of maintaining stability in the border areas between Georgia and South Ossetia and between Georgia and Abkhazia. This is facilitated in no small measure, particularly on the border between Georgia and South Ossetia, by the activities of the IPRM in Ergnet. We are counting on its continued seamless operation. We are willing to help to unblock the operation of the IPRM at Gal.

In order to minimize the risks of dangerous incidents on the shared borders of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, it is important for the three Trans-Caucasian States to initiate as soon as possible the process of their delimitation and subsequent demarcation. This would help to reduce tensions and make the situation on the ground more predictable, and also move negotiations forward on other important topics.

Unfortunately, we are obliged once again to note that the atmosphere around the Geneva Discussions continues to be poisoned by Georgia's destructive policy of levelling indiscriminate and unfounded accusations of all manner of wrongdoings at Russia in various international forums, including the United Nations and the OSCE. In this connection, we should like to stress that this tactic is not, nor can it be, beneficial; on the contrary, it is undermining the overall achievements within the Geneva Discussions.

Lastly, we once again call on the Georgian Government to abandon its pernicious habit of trying to discuss issues concerning Abkhazia and South Ossetia at international organizations without the participation of representatives of the authorities in Sukhum and Tskhinval. It is precisely this approach by Georgia that is preventing the negotiators in Geneva from making progress in their work on the humanitarian track.

Furthermore, we once again draw attention to the fact that the Medvedev-Sarkozy plan does not constitute a "ceasefire agreement" dated 12 August 2008. There has never been such a document. It still does not exist, as the Russian delegation in Geneva has repeatedly pointed out to the Georgians.

With regard to the address by the distinguished Ambassador Söder, we note that not all the OSCE participating States subscribe to the concept of the so-called European security order. This is non-consensus terminology. In particular, the Russian Federation rejects such an approach to the general interpretation of common and indivisible security in the OSCE's area of responsibility. It is necessary, in our view, to take this into account in future work.

In closing, we should like to wish the Co-Chairs of the Geneva Discussions every success in their activities in the interests of normalizing Georgia's relations with Abkhazia and South Ossetia as rapidly as possible.

Thank you for your attention.



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**1344th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1344, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to start by informing the Permanent Council of the situation on the ground a year after the signing on 9 November 2020 of the trilateral ceasefire statement which put an end to the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh with the direct support and participation of Turkey and Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists.

The war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan and its allies against the 150,000 people of Artsakh was unprecedented in its scale and intensity, lasting for 44 days and being accompanied by numerous flagrant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including deliberate targeting of civilian settlements and infrastructure, use of internationally banned indiscriminate and incendiary weapons, inhuman treatment and murder of prisoners of war and civilian captives, and other war crimes, leaving thousands killed and tens of thousands wounded and displaced. And the tragedy of this bloody war is that it did not bring us any closer to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

As a result of the war, a significant part of the territory of Artsakh was subjected to ethnic cleansing and many civilians became victims of war crimes and atrocities committed with particular brutality. During the past year, we have presented many such facts to the OSCE Permanent Council, in many cases backed up with video and photo evidence. The war was a real disaster for the people of Artsakh, who were already deprived of international support and assistance on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, 40,000 people lost their homes and property, more than 17,000 civilian facilities and infrastructure were destroyed, hundreds of civilians were killed or injured, and the fate of many others still remains unknown.

One year after the signing of the trilateral statement and the establishment of the ceasefire, more than a hundred Armenian prisoners of war and civilians continue to be held captive in Azerbaijan, in violation of all the norms of international humanitarian law as well as of paragraph 8 of the trilateral statement.

Following the war, Azerbaijan also embarked on the destruction and appropriation of the objects of Armenian historical and religious heritage in the territories that came under its

control, in order to erase all traces of Armenian presence there. Moreover, according to reports, Azerbaijan is engaged in activities aimed at radically changing the demographic composition of the region by relocating terrorists and their family members from the Middle East and elsewhere.

Madam Chairperson,

Throughout the year, Armenia and Artsakh have consistently complied with the provisions of the 9 November trilateral statement, while just one month after the signing of the statement Azerbaijan returned to its usual tactic of violations and provocations, as had been the case during the whole period following the 1994 trilateral ceasefire agreement signed by Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It is worth recalling that in December 2020, in flagrant violation of the trilateral statement of 9 November, Azerbaijani armed forces attacked and occupied the villages of Khtsaberd and Hin Tagher in the Hadrut region of Artsakh, killing several Armenian soldiers and capturing dozens, most of whom are still illegally detained in Azerbaijan.

The plight of the Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages held by Azerbaijan contrary to and in violation of the requirements of international humanitarian law and the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 continues to remain the most pressing issue. Even after a whole year, it still remains unresolved.

At the same time, Azerbaijan continues to conceal the real number of Armenian prisoners of war, thus putting them at risk of enforced disappearance. Moreover, the mock trials and the imposition of lengthy sentences on bogus charges against prisoners of war clearly demonstrate the anti-Armenian hatred policy and smear campaign that is being conducted in Azerbaijan from the highest levels downwards.

Dear colleagues,

Throughout the year, Azerbaijan deliberately and systematically violated the ceasefire and committed provocative actions both along the line of contact with Artsakh and also, following the illegal incursion by its armed units into the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia on 12 May 2021 and their presence there ever since then, on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border as well, which led to civilian and military casualties and escalation of tensions.

As a result of these violations and provocations, two civilians and nine servicemen were killed, and 37 people, including nine civilians, were wounded.

Residential areas and houses close to the line of contact in Artsakh or on the border of Armenia with Azerbaijan are under constant threat of gunfire.

After the killing by sniper fire of Aram Tepnants, a farmer from the occupied village of Mataghis who was working in a field near the town of Martakert in the presence of Russian peacekeepers, Azerbaijani authorities initiated another attack on civilians carrying out construction works near the Stepanakert-Shushi road in the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeepers. It should be noted that the Azerbaijani military authorities were

properly notified about the construction work. But this did not prevent peaceful workers from being shot at by an Azerbaijani officer in cold blood and at point-blank range. As a result of this crime, one civilian was killed, Martik Yeremyan aged 22, and three others were seriously wounded.

Another case was reported just two days ago in the Khachik village of Armenia, when a farmer came under fire while working in the field. These attacks on peaceful residents of the border regions are clearly intended to terrorize the border residents, just as the repeated acts of cattle-rustling and arson on pastures and hayfields are intended to deprive them of their livelihoods.

Madam Chairperson,

The 44-day war and its aftermath has resulted in a further upsurge of already deeply rooted anti-Armenian hatred and hate propaganda, which has been fostered, promoted and directed by the political leadership of Azerbaijan at the highest level.

Recently, the European Court of Human Rights delivered yet another ruling on the cases of Mamikon Khojoyan, a 77-year-old resident of the Armenian village of Verin Karmirakhbyur, and Karen Petrosyan, a resident of the village of Chinari. Mr. Karen Petrosyan died in Azerbaijani captivity, Mr. Mamikon Khojoyan shortly after returning to his homeland. Both were subjected to torture and inhumane or degrading treatment. The Court recognized that Baku violated the Armenian prisoners' right to life, liberty and security of person.

Even though Armenophobia has been the outstanding feature of Azerbaijan's political, cultural, civic, economic and other policies for the last several decades, today, in conditions of total impunity with respect to violations of international laws and norms, and in the face of the apparent inability of the international community and its multilateral mechanisms to prevent, deter and punish such gross violations of the norms and principles of international law and international humanitarian law, the language and rhetoric used by the Azerbaijani leader and Azerbaijan's State bodies and officials has gone beyond all norms of civilized political discourse and common decency, sliding into vulgarity and crassness.

We hear this kind of language and performance on an almost daily basis, the last examples being the statement of the president of that country made in Shushi in the presence of the Minister of Defence of Turkey, and the statement of the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan.

We consider it beneath us to even consider commenting on those statements. But I would advise those who consistently and enthusiastically call upon Armenia to engage in various initiatives aimed at establishing trust and confidence to read the statements of the Azerbaijani officials carefully, in order to enhance their understanding of the situation and their awareness of the prospects for trust and confidence.

Madam Chairperson,

Throughout the 44-day war of aggression and thereafter, the Armenian delegation has been persistently calling on the OSCE and its participating States to react and take a firm



stand regarding the gross violations of two founding principles of the Organization, namely, the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

Apparently, our calls have fallen on deaf ears, as we have seen little to no reaction from the Chairperson-in-Office, from the relevant OSCE structures, or from the participating States, which are otherwise so quick to react and condemn other such occurrences in the OSCE area.

We regret that our distinguished Chairperson-in-Office, who is vigilant regarding violations of OSCE commitments in other cases and as a rule reacts to them swiftly, kept silent when heinous crimes were committed against people of Artsakh, when the territorial integrity of Armenia was violated, and when the civilian peaceful population was targeted, and continues to do so now when the threat or use of force and aggression is becoming normal.

One would also of course expect that the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict would have drawn the attention of the Chairperson-in-Office to the gravity of the situation, but we presume that this was not the case, especially as the said Personal Representative has himself been absent from the region for more than a year.

This obvious lack of proper reaction from the OSCE, which has created an environment of complete impunity, now allows the Azerbaijani delegation to actively promote its anti-Armenian narratives and propaganda even here at the OSCE. Introducing the current issue to glorify the war with its killings and other crimes against humanity is an affront to the Organization's values, ideas and principles, and demonstrates the disrespect in which Azerbaijan holds the OSCE and all it stands for.

Madam Chairperson,

The realities created as a result of the use of force by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and its people cannot create a basis for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Azerbaijan's claims that as a result of the war the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Nagorno-Karabakh itself do not exist in the international arena any more are also violations of the 9 November trilateral statement, in which Nagorno-Karabakh is presented as a territorial entity in its own right.

Conditions for ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region can only be created by the full implementation of the trilateral statements of 9 November 2020 and 11 January 2021, particularly the immediate resolution of urgent humanitarian issues, primarily the unconditional repatriation of all prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons, the clarification of the fate of missing persons, and the investigation of the enforced disappearances, as well as the protection of Armenian cultural and religious heritage, and the full resumption of the process of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

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; the 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 a 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 region's historical and religious heritage.

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

Thank you.



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**1344th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1344, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

On 8 November the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrated the first anniversary of Victory Day, on which Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan, was liberated after 28 years of occupation by our glorious armed forces led by the Commander-in-Chief President Ilham Aliyev. This was a truly patriotic war because this was a struggle for liberation from occupation and restoring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of my country. Victory Day became a solemn manifestation of the strength of our people and our national pride, forming a glorious page in the history of our country. This day also represents a triumph of international law and justice.

As it is known, for nearly three decades Armenia deliberately disregarded the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council adopted in response to Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan by refusing to withdraw its troops from the territories of Azerbaijan and not engaging faithfully in negotiations to resolve the conflict by political means. Instead, Armenia directed all its efforts at colonizing the seized territories of Azerbaijan under the cover of the ceasefire and the peace process, gradually toughened its rhetoric at the highest level and repeatedly resorted to armed provocations on the ground.

Another act of aggression by Armenia, on 27 September 2020, with the involvement of mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters, became a logical consequence of the impunity Armenia enjoyed for more than 30 years. In response to an armed attack, Azerbaijan undertook and successfully accomplished a counter-offensive operation, exercising the inherent right of self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and customary international law. Azerbaijan put an end to the aggression, liberated its territories from occupation and protected its people. In accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions as well as numerous decisions and resolutions of other international organizations, Azerbaijan's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders was ensured, and the right of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to return to their native homes was restored.

In the course of the combat actions, which lasted 44 days, the armed forces of Azerbaijan liberated more than 300 cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan from occupation,

including the Fuzuli, Gubadly, Jabrayil and Zangilan districts, the settlement of Hadrut as well as the city of Shusha.

The trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation has brought an end to all military activities. Armenia, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the statement, withdrew its troops from the Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan. Thus, the conflict was resolved through military and political means, and the trilateral statement set agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region.

As we celebrate Victory Day in Azerbaijan, we remember with profound respect and honour the memory of all our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the just cause of Azerbaijan, its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. During last year's war 2,908 servicemen of Azerbaijan's armed forces lost their lives, while 6 are still missing. Furthermore, the armed forces of Armenia carried out deliberate, systematic and indiscriminate attacks against densely populated civilian areas of Azerbaijan located far away from the former combat zone. This constituted a clear and gross violation of international humanitarian law and qualified as war crimes. Overall, as a result of these attacks by Armenia between 27 September and 10 November 2020, 101 Azerbaijani civilians, including 12 children, were killed, 423 civilians were wounded, almost 84,000 people were forced to leave their homes and over 4,300 private houses and apartment buildings and 548 other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged.

The end of the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan revealed the full extent of the illegal activities carried out by Armenia for decades. This includes extensive mining; the deliberate destruction and misappropriation of Azerbaijan's historical, cultural and religious heritage; plundering of natural resources; destruction of infrastructure; and other violations of international law. The evidence of Armenia's numerous war crimes was also revealed. In order to hold Armenia accountable for its breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law, Azerbaijan filed inter-State applications against Armenia in the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice.

The Patriotic War opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region. Despite Armenia's international wrongdoings and despite the devastating consequences and unhealed wounds of the almost three decades-old war and occupation, the post-conflict realities offer a unique opportunity and real prospects for building peace, consolidating stability, restoring peaceful co-existence, advancing the reconciliation agenda and investing in economic development and co-operation. Therefore, on 11 January 2021, the leaders of the three countries signed another joint statement aimed at implementing a number of practical steps to remove obstacles to economic and transportation links in the region.

The Government of Azerbaijan is carrying out restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated territories and is taking consistent steps to ensure the safe and dignified return of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis, as well as the reintegration of these lands. Only this year 1.3 billion US dollars has been allocated from the State budget. The Government is also taking all necessary measures to ensure lasting peace, security and prosperity in the region, in accordance with the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. The return to

normal life is under way and peace is within reach for the first time after nearly three decades of conflict.

Ensuring lasting peace, development and progress is at the heart of Azerbaijan's vision for the future of the region. In the post-conflict period, Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its readiness for the reconciliation and normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders, including through signing a peace treaty based on these principles. We urge Armenia to comply with its international obligations and to respect these fundamental principles to ensure peace, security and prosperity in the region.

With the end of the conflict, new realities have emerged in the region, and everyone must accept these realities. Armenia must make a choice between regional co-operation and good neighbourly relations on the one hand, and illegal unfounded territorial claims against its neighbours on the other. The international community, including the OSCE, must soberly assess the realities and play a positive and more proactive role in this regard by encouraging Armenia to realize that there is no alternative to peace with its neighbours. Attempts to, directly or indirectly, support revanchism in Armenia must be stopped.

In this regard, attempts to reanimate obsolete conflict narratives and assumptions are unacceptable and counterproductive and can in no way contribute to consolidating peace and stability in the region. On the contrary, they 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 neighbours and sustaining revanchist attitudes still prevailing in Armenia.

We draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the illegal visit of the Armenian Defence Minister on the eve of the anniversary of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement to the territory of Azerbaijan, where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is temporarily deployed to. This illegal visit fits well into the pattern of Armenia's provocations aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region and demonstrates once again that this country is not faithful to the implementation of its obligations under the trilateral statements. The illegal visit also demonstrates that Armenia continues to promote aggressive separatism and terrorist acts on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this connection, we remind that Article 4 of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement envisages the full withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the territories of Azerbaijan, in parallel with the temporary deployment of the Russian Federation's peacekeeping contingent, which remains unimplemented.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan issued a warning to the military and political leadership of Armenia that in case of a repetition of such illegal visits to the territory of Azerbaijan, the necessary measures will be taken to prevent aggressive separatism and terrorist acts in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Armenia should draw lessons from its defeat on the battlefield last year and refrain from its provocations.

On 9 November the Armenian side once again attempted to commit a provocation on the Lachin section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Thus, around 60 servicemen of the

Armenian armed forces on two military trucks, moving in the direction of Lake Garagol of the Lachin region, attempted to block the road between the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in this section of the border. The Azerbaijan army units stationed in this direction took immediate measures as a result of which the Armenian servicemen were encircled. Taking into account the request of the Russian side, the Azerbaijani side allowed the Armenian servicemen to return. The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan issued a warning that it will take more harsh measures if such provocations continue.

Instead of resorting to such irresponsible provocations in an attempt to undermine prospects for peace and security, Armenia must finally reconcile with the fact that the conflict is resolved and direct its resources towards the implementation of the trilateral statements in good faith with a view to consolidating peace and stability in the region.

By repelling the aggression of Armenia and liberating its territories from occupation, Azerbaijan has demonstrated that it will resolutely protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Armenia bears full responsibility for aggravating the situation. Azerbaijan reserves the right to adequately respond to Armenia's provocations and to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity with all available means.

We reiterate that it is essential for Armenia to soberly assess the new realities and not to rely on miscalculations or false expectations and to put an end to its provocations that will jeopardize the fragile peace in the region established with the signing of the trilateral statements and will be devastating for Armenia. Instead, Armenia should reciprocate the constructive offer of Azerbaijan and seize the historic opportunity to normalize its relations with neighbouring countries, which will open 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, Madam Chairperson.



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**1344th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1344, Agenda item 2(d)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I thank my distinguished Azerbaijani colleague for raising this current issue.

Azerbaijan is a country with which Turkey has deep-rooted friendly ties and brotherly relations. We congratulate Azerbaijan on its Victory Day. We would like to once again extend our condolences for the Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians who lost their lives.

Azerbaijan put an end to the occupation that had blocked the realization of the region's true capacity. The atmosphere today is more convenient than ever to ensuring lasting peace and to making progress towards the long-awaited normalization. To this end, actions should be taken in accordance with the new situation in the region. We believe that this promising process will advance in a much more reliable manner if Azerbaijan and Armenia crown their ceasefire agreement with a comprehensive and visionary peace agreement.

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.

We have to make peace and stability permanent and provide the conditions for economic development and regional co-operation. Regional ownership is the key. New transport connections will create economic opportunities for all countries in the region. All countries will benefit.

Azerbaijan has taken important steps in the fields of restoration and reconstruction. Turkey will continue to support Azerbaijan in these efforts.

We join our voice to Azerbaijan's call for the remaining maps of mined areas to be released and for the whereabouts of close to four thousand missing Azerbaijanis to be clarified.

We believe that a bright future in our region is possible. Turkey is ready to work with all parties who want to make good use of this historic opportunity. Turkey will reciprocate any positive step towards building a lasting peace.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.





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**1344th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1344, Agenda item 2(f)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Lithuania thanks the delegation of the European Union (EU) for raising this current issue. We align with the EU statement that was just delivered. However, owing to the importance of this issue to my country, let me also make several remarks in my national capacity.

I wish to start by expressing Lithuania's unwavering support for and solidarity with our neighbour Poland, which is marking its Independence Day today. *Życzymy pięknego Święta Niepodległości, Polsko.* Congratulations, Poland.

Let us be clear: the current situation at the EU border with Belarus is a direct result of instrumentalization of migrants by the current regime of Belarus. Therefore, the responsibility for irregular migration and its consequences lies with the Belarusian regime.

It is deplorable that innocent people – men, women, children and elderly – are being cynically used as a weapon for political purposes against our countries and the entire EU, in revenge for our principled stance against the unprecedented abuses and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Belarus before and after the fraudulent presidential elections last year.

We strongly condemn the Belarusian regime for deliberately pushing people through the EU-Belarus border, thus putting their lives at risk.

It is high time for Belarus to reconsider its position and to stop violating its international commitments. In the meantime, international humanitarian organizations must be given immediate access to the territory of Belarus to provide urgent humanitarian help for those in need.

All those who were lured to the border of the EU must be allowed to return to their countries of origin.

We thank our European partners and transatlantic allies for their solidarity and support, which is highly appreciated by the Government of Lithuania and by the Lithuanian people.

We also wish to encourage other OSCE participating States to look into the schemes for smuggling migrants used by Belarus and to take urgent action to thwart persons or legal entities who are complicit in these schemes. This deliberate instrumentalization of migrants must be stopped.

In conclusion, we call on Belarus to start respecting and implementing its international principles and commitments, including those undertaken within the OSCE.

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