
Chairmanship: Albania**1281st PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 17 September 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Permanent Council of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings of the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen, and the new Permanent Representative of Belarus to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas.

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/31/20 OSCE+) (PC.FR/32/20 OSCE+), Germany-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1212/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1195/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1188/20), Turkey, Canada, Hungary (PC.DEL/1202/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1194/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1189/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: DATES AND VENUE OF THE 2020 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1377 (PC.DEC/1377) on the dates and venue of the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2020 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1378 (PC.DEC/1378) on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1193/20), Germany-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/1214/20), United Kingdom, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1196/20), Turkey, United States of America (PC.DEL/1192/20), Canada (PC.DEL/1210/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1200/20), Ukraine
- (c) *Recent developments in Belarus:* Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1213/20), United States of America (PC.DEL/1199/20), Russian Federation, Belarus (PC.DEL/1205/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Concluding Meeting of the 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, held in Prague and via video teleconference on 10 and 11 September 2020:* Chairperson

- (b) *2020 Chairmanship OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 14 and 15 September 2020:* Chairperson
- (c) *Telephone conversation between the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the President of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. V. Zelenskyy, held on 11 September 2020:* Chairperson
- (d) *Appearance of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office at a hearing of the US Helsinki Commission via video teleconference, to be held on 17 September 2020:* Chairperson, Russian Federation, United States of America (PC.DEL/1197/20), Ukraine
- (e) *Series of webinars focused on the human dimension, to be held during 2020:* Chairperson
- (f) *Deadline for nominations for the posts of Secretary General, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Representative on Freedom of the Media, and Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights:* Chairperson
- (g) *Ambassadorial retreat, to be held in Lower Austria on 28 and 29 September 2020:* Chairperson
- (h) *Presentation of the 2021 Unified Budget Proposal to the Permanent Council, to be held on 1 October 2020:* Chairperson, Russian Federation

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

- (a) *Update on the Secretariat's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/116/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Participation of the Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General in the Concluding Meeting of the 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, held in Prague and via video teleconference on 10 and 11 September 2020:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General SEC.GAL/116/20
- (c) *Conflict Cycle Seminar on "Making a Difference on the Ground: Inclusive Approaches to Sustainable Peace and Security", held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 11 September 2020:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General SEC.GAL/116/20
- (d) *Ninth annual meeting of the Network of Early Warning Focal Points, held on 7 and 8 September 2020:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General
- (e) *Participation of the Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General in the 2020 Chairmanship OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 14 and 15 September 2020:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General SEC.GAL/116/20

- (f) *Extension of the deadline for nominations for the position of Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro: Director of the Office of the Secretary General* SEC.GAL/116/20

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Presidential election in the Republic of Moldova, to be held on 1 November 2020: Moldova* (PC.DEL/1201/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *Invoking the Moscow Mechanism in relation to serious human rights violations in Belarus: United Kingdom (also on behalf of Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1204/20 OSCE+), Germany (also on behalf of Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Spain) (Annex), Belarus (PC.DEL/1207/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1206/20 OSCE+), Netherlands, Poland*
- (c) *Economic normalization between Kosovo and Serbia: United States of America (PC.DEL/1198/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1203/20 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/1208/20 OSCE+)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 1 October 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1281
17 September 2020
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1281st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1281, Agenda item 7(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF CROATIA, HUNGARY, ITALY,
LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, SLOVENIA AND SPAIN)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of my country Germany and also on behalf of the following participating States: Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Spain.

We, too, are extremely concerned about the continuing violations of the human rights of citizens demonstrating peacefully in Belarus and about the repressive measures against journalists and the restriction of political participation rights. In the wake of the Belarusian presidential election, we have called – also within the European Union and the OSCE – for a swift and clear response, consisting of:

- Not recognizing the election as valid and drawing up a list of those responsible for human rights violations and ballot rigging; and
- Offers of dialogue and mediation.

We support the offer by the current and future OSCE Chairmanships, Albania and Sweden, to promote the necessary dialogue between the authorities in Minsk and civil society.

We expressly thank the Chairmanship and Sweden for their efforts and deeply regret that the authorities in Minsk have so far failed to respond and appear to have postponed the acceptance of this offer indefinitely.

In view of the continuing human rights violations, which have increased considerably in recent days, and the as yet insufficient investigation of these human rights abuses, we support today's invocation of the Moscow Mechanism.

We hope that this will provide the necessary clarification of the facts regarding, and documentation of, the massive human rights violations committed by the Belarusian authorities.

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



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

PC.DEC/1377
17 September 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1281st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1281, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 1377
DATES AND VENUE OF THE 2020 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

(12 and 13 October 2020, via Zoom)

The Permanent Council,

Welcoming the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference, and further to the discussion within the framework of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group,

Decides to hold the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference on 12 and 13 October 2020, via Zoom.

The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the Conference will be further elaborated in the framework of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group and submitted to the Permanent Council for adoption.



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

PC.DEC/1378
17 September 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1281st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1281, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1378
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF
THE 2020 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

(12 and 13 October 2020, via Zoom)

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1377 of 17 September 2020 on the dates and venue of the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference, to be held via Zoom on 12 and 13 October 2020,

Further to the discussion within the framework of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group,

Welcoming the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference,

Decides to hold the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference on the subject “Multilateral responses to the global security challenges”;

Adopts the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the Conference as set out in the annex.

**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES
OF THE 2020 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE ON MULTILATERAL
RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES**

12 and 13 October 2020, via Zoom

**Co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea
and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

I. Agenda

Monday, 12 October 2020

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9–10 a.m. | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Representative of the host country (Republic of Korea)– Representative of the Chairmanship of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group (Slovakia)– Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship (Albania)– Officer-in-charge/Secretary General of the OSCE |
| 10 a.m.–12 noon | Session 1: Regional confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and exchanges of best practices between Europe and Asia <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Transparency: sharing military information– Building confidence: verification measures– Risk reduction: more confidence-building measures– Subregional CSBM agreements– The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: rules of inter- and intra-State relations for military and other security forces <p>Discussion</p> |
| 12 noon–1.30 p.m. | Lunch break |

1.30–3.30 p.m. Session 2: Mitigating trans-border environmental risks and challenges

This session will focus on:

- Co-ordinated disaster risk reduction and preparedness response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with implications for climate change and security
- Water and health: international co-operation and best practices in transboundary water management

Discussion

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

9.30–11.30 a.m. Session 3: The nexus between security and access to information in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

This session will focus on:

- The balance between freedom of information and protection of public health
- Access to diverse information as a means to help public in holding governments to account as well as a means for the public to judge the efforts taken to protect public health
- The restriction of human rights including freedom of information during the pandemics

Discussion

11.30 a.m.–12 noon Closing remarks

12 noon End of the Conference

II. Participation

The OSCE participating States are invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The OSCE executive structures and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference.

The following international organizations and institutions will be invited to participate in and contribute to the Conference: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Council of Europe (CoE), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Representatives of the members of the ARF may attend as guests of the host country. Other countries and organizations may also be invited by the host country.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices (advance registration required).

III. Timetable and other organizational modalities

The Conference will begin at 9.30 a.m. (opening remarks) on 12 October 2020 and end at 12 noon on 13 October 2020.

Each session will have a moderator and rapporteur. The consolidated summary will be forwarded to the Permanent Council.

The Rules of Procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

The opening remarks and closing session will be open to the media. The Conference will be held via Zoom. The working language will be English.