
Chairmanship: Serbia**1050th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 7 May 2015

Opened: 10.20 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Žugić

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

Agenda item 1: SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR

Chairperson, Kazakhstan (also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) (Annex 1), United States of America (PC.DEL/554/15), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/577/15), Belarus (Annex 2), Canada (PC.DEL/557/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/598/15/Rev.1), Ukraine (Annex 3), Switzerland (PC.DEL/586/15 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/594/15), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/567/15 OSCE+), Germany (Annex 4), Georgia (PC.DEL/583/15 OSCE+), Tajikistan (PC.DEL/564/15), Mongolia, Moldova, Armenia (PC.DEL/601/15), Holy See, Israel (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 PROGRAMME OUTLINE
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Secretary General (SEC.GAL/85/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association

Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/556/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/555/15) Russian Federation, Switzerland (PC.DEL/587/15 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/599/15 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/558/15 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/595/15), Azerbaijan, Armenia (PC.DEL/602/15)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2015 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1170 (PC.DEC/1170) on the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2015 Human Dimension Seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Ongoing aggression against Ukraine and violations of OSCE principles and commitments by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/581/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/570/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/563/15), Switzerland (PC.DEL/571/15 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/565/15 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/559/15 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/579/15), Ukraine, United States of America, Belarus (PC.DEL/582/15 OSCE+), Germany
- (c) *Abduction and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian Federation:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/580/15 OSCE+), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/560/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/561/15), Canada
- (d) *Political prisoners in Belarus:* Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the European Free

Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/566/15), United States of America (PC.DEL/562/15), Belarus

- (e) *World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on 3 May 2015*: Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/572/15), Mongolia, Norway (PC.DEL/596/15), Canada, United States of America
- (f) *Statement by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh*: France (also on behalf of the Russian Federation and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/589/15), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/568/15), Armenia, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/569/15 OSCE+), Georgia, Turkey, Moldova, Cyprus

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

Visit of the Head of the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Ambassador D. Šahović, to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia from 6 to 8 May 2015:
Chairperson (CIO.GAL/62/15)

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General*:
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (SEC.GAL/87/15 OSCE+)
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in a high-level retreat with heads of international organizations on 1 and 2 May 2015* (SEC.GAL/87/15 OSCE+):
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Appeal for the nomination of candidates for the post of Planning Officer in the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*: Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Meeting of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, to be held on 8 May 2015*: Germany

(b) *Organizational matters*: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Monday, 11 May 2015, at 10.30 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1050

7 May 2015

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1050th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1050, Agenda item 1

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

Seven decades separate us from the historic Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945. That is a long time, but the peoples of our countries remember everything about that war: deprivation and hunger, bombing and death, and the fearful numbers of our losses, especially the millions of human lives.

On the battlefields and the labour front, the harsh war years clearly revealed the indestructible friendship and supreme patriotism of our peoples, who, standing shoulder to shoulder, won a common Victory. The great legacy of the Victory is today an important spiritual value and a moral compass for the post-war generations in establishing a just and secure world. For this reason, 9 May, Victory Day, will forever remain a symbol of self-sacrifice and heroism in defending the freedom and independence of our peoples and in saving humanity from the threat of fascist enslavement.

In this context, we welcome the Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War, adopted on 5 December 2014 at the Basel Ministerial Council meeting.

We have never set our Victory apart from that of others, and we will always remember the help we received from our allies – the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, other States of the anti-Hitler coalition and European anti-fascists. Today we pay tribute to the courage of all those Europeans who resisted Nazism.

History teaches that States and peoples must try not to overlook how new lethal doctrines arise and how, and from what, new threats emerge. The war's lessons admonish us that complicity in violence, apathy, and waiting inevitably lead to dreadful tragedies on a global scale. For this reason, the world's States must forge relations that are not only held together by the lessons of the past, but are also anchored in our common future.

The perception of the Victory of 1945 as a common value of humanity was confirmed by the unanimous adoption, on 26 February 2015, of the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled "Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War". In this resolution, the international community called for the observance of 8 and 9 May in an

appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War. The resolution recalls the indissoluble tie between the end of that war and the founding of the United Nations.

The subsequent establishment of regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was a significant historical achievement whose roots go back 70 years. As OSCE participating States, we also talk about another landmark date – the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, signed on 1 August 1975, which plays an important role in contemporary international relations.

We categorically do not accept and resolutely reject the purposeful attempts that have been made to rewrite history, to distort and revise the outcome of the Second World War. We consider inadmissible any attempts to glorify Nazism and militant nationalism. We believe that all countries should do everything within their power to counter manifestations of neo-fascism, chauvinism, hatred based on nationality or religion, and all forms of xenophobia.

Our States, confirming their adherence to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, call for active co-operation to strengthen global security and stability, for enhancing the efforts to combat international terrorism and extremism, and for the peaceful political settlement of existing conflicts and the avoidance of other possible ones.

Our States will continue to do everything in their power to strengthen multilateral co-operation with the international community in order to ensure sustained peaceful development and progress.

Mr. Chairperson, we request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1050

7 May 2015

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1050th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1050, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

We subscribe fully to the statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan on behalf of a number of participating States. At the same time, in view of the importance of the subject under discussion, we should like to say a few words in a national capacity.

The Day of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945 is a truly sacred holiday for the Republic of Belarus, as it is for the peoples of other countries of the former Soviet Union. It will remain forever in human memory as an unforgettable date.

It is well known that the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution to the victory over Nazism and paid the highest price to deliver Europe and the world from fascism.

The war, which swept like a deadly hurricane through the country, carried off almost one in three Belarusians. Our hearts will forever carry the memory of the hundreds of thousands of tortured prisoners of the ghettos and death camps and the inhabitants of Khatyn and 628 other Belarusian villages, who were burnt alive by the Nazis and their accomplices. Alone in Trostinets concentration camp near Minsk – the fourth largest after Auschwitz, Treblinka and Majdanek in terms of the death toll – over 200,000 people, citizens of the Soviet Union and many European countries, were annihilated by the fascists.

Together with the other peoples of the Soviet Union and allies of the anti-Hitler coalition, Belarusians fighting on the front and as part of the broad partisan movement, which brought together around 400,000 people by the end of the war, not only defended their right to live on their home soil but also made a significant contribution to the overall great victory over Nazism.

The tragic lessons of history must never be erased from our memory. It is our duty to keep alive the blessed memory of all the victims of fascism, to maintain their graves and the memorials to them and to ensure that they are not desecrated. We should make every effort together to prevent any attempts to whitewash the crimes of the Nazis and their accomplices convicted at the Nuremberg Tribunal and to punish those who have somehow managed to avoid just retribution so far. Such crimes are covered by no statute of limitations.

We cannot but be concerned by the fact that aggressive nationalism, neo-fascism and neo-Nazi ideology are once again raising their head today in the OSCE region. We are seeing the glorification of Nazism, propaganda and the cultivation of racism and anti-Semitism, and incitement to xenophobia and religious intolerance.

As one of the key inter-State forums for ensuring stability, security and co-operation, the OSCE should take decisive action to consolidate the international community's efforts to develop resilience to the virus of Nazism and its manifestations and to ensure that the twentieth century disaster that we know as the Second World War is not repeated.

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



1050th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1050, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the next two days, along with other nations across the globe, Ukraine will commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War – the most tragic chapter in the history of Europe and of the entire world.

We will mourn and pay tribute to the millions who gave up their lives 70 years ago fighting for liberty and peace. We must remember the tremendous sacrifices, unestimated human pain and all the people who lost their lives, as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations and acts of repression.

As our Ministers stated in the Basel Commemorative Declaration: “Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice and we will never forget their heroic deeds.”

Paying tribute to the heroes, we must be clear in our firm and unequivocal condemnation of the Nazi totalitarian regime with its record of genocide, violations of human rights and freedoms, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Perpetuating aggressive rhetoric and claims to have to “protect compatriots” and expand its “living space”, the Nazi regime unleashed the most bloody war in human history.

The people of Ukraine sacrificed themselves and made an enormous contribution to the victory over Nazism in 1939–1945, demonstrating true heroism in the struggle for the liberation of their native soil and of Europe as a whole. An extremely high human price was paid, with eight million Ukrainians losing their lives in the years of the Second World War. A total of 720 Ukrainian towns and 28,000 villages were ruined and hundreds of thousands of industrial and agricultural facilities, schools and hospitals totally destroyed as the scourge of war moved across Ukrainian territory, first from west to east and then from east to west.

On 8 May the Ukrainian nation will observe the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation, and on 9 May Victory Day, commemorating the victory over Nazism in the Second World War.

We also pay our earnest tribute to the historic roles played by other nations of the former Soviet Union and by the Allied forces, and to all the selfless sacrifices which brought about the defeat of Nazism in the Second World War.

Distinguished colleagues,

The lessons of the Second World War have an accentuated relevance today when we are once again witnessing military aggression by one State against another, placing also under attack the foundation of security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian area. Russian aggression against Ukraine deserves unequivocal condemnation because it has challenged security achievements of which the OSCE participating States have been proud for many decades.

Nobody in my country could have imagined that Ukraine, a peaceful nation, would become a victim of external aggression in the 21st century in the middle of Europe.

For the first time since the end of the Second World War, a part of the territory of one State has been illegally occupied and annexed by a neighbouring State, thus grossly violating the norms of international law and the fundamental OSCE principles and commitments which had been developed and agreed upon to prevent war from happening again. For the first time since the end of the Second World War, Ukrainians have stood up to defend their native soil and have been killed by military forces of another country. Thousands of killed and wounded, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, destruction, sufferings and grave human rights violations in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and in Donbas are the tragic outcomes of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Based on lessons of the tragic past and on our responsibility for a safe future, we must not allow the rule of law to be substituted by the rule of force. We must safeguard the core OSCE principles of the sovereignty, independence, political unity and territorial integrity of participating States. To prevent the recurrence of tragedies we must stay united and redouble our efforts to counter the aggression of one participating State against another.

This anniversary must remind us of our responsibilities for peace and our common commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or sovereignty of any State. Ukraine, being a co-founder of the United Nations, remains fully committed to the core norms and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. We firmly believe that in the 21st century there must be no place for the use of force and coercion to change internationally recognized borders in Europe or elsewhere. Unity and firmness in confronting the violation of our shared principles and in bringing the aggressor to account is the means to avert the erosion of the foundations of peace and security in the OSCE space.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly 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/1050

7 May 2015

Annex 4

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1050th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1050, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

Mr. Chairperson,

I thank you for giving us the opportunity to have this discussion today on such an important day of remembrance.

The end of the Second World War marks a deep historical turning point not only in German but also in European history. For us Germans it is above all an occasion to remember the unspeakable suffering inflicted on people during the war in Germany's name. It is an occasion to mourn the millions of victims of the war and the tyranny.

The tragedy that Germany brought upon the world during the 12 years of the Nazi dictatorship also summons to mind our responsibility. We will therefore keep alive the memory of the suffering and its causes. This is especially true today in view of the great challenges to European security that we are facing.

The day of unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945 was a day of liberation for Germany. This is how Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker referred to it in a major speech in 1985, and this is how it is anchored today in the collective consciousness of the German people.

However, this liberation – as Federal Minister Steinmeier put it in a speech on 2 May in Berlin – was not merely a liberation from something, but it was also a liberation to something. To clarify what is meant here, let me quote from Federal Minister Steinmeier's speech:

“By way of having been liberated from the racial fanaticism and the tyranny of National Socialism, the darkest aberration in our history, we were able to shine more light on the path that lay ahead of us, and to remain ever vigilant and fully committed to the human values and political principles that Germany had desecrated in an unprecedented way.

Thus our liberation also gives rise to our responsibility – the responsibility of ‘never again’. These two words summarize what guilt, duty and responsibility mean to us Germans today – including passing on the experience of a terrible past as a warning to future generations, and countering those who ignore it.”

Mr. Chairperson,

The Second World War came to an end in Europe 70 years ago. Forty years ago we laid the foundations for our common European home with the Helsinki Final Act. Twenty-five years ago, when the wall came down and we negotiated German reunification, we believed that the division of Europe and with it one of the most serious consequences of the Second World War had been overcome. In the Charter of Paris we paved the way for a new era of democracy, peace and freedom, an era of good-neighbourly coexistence in which war and violence were to be consigned to the past once and for all, an era in which clashes of interest and security problems in the OSCE were to be resolved solely through dialogue and co-operation.

Where do we stand today in 2015? Once again we are confronted with an attempt to solve differences with military force. The conflict in and around Ukraine calls into question the peaceful order to which we have committed ourselves together in the OSCE. Nothing can justify war and violence in Europe today. We owe it to the people that we live up to our responsibility and resolutely counter the use of military force. In view of our common purpose as OSCE participating States, we are obliged to strive for lasting political solutions to the existing conflicts within the OSCE area. It is not confrontation and hate but understanding and reconciliation that must win the upper hand.

Our commemoration today should once again make us aware of our central responsibility to champion unambiguously a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around Ukraine. It should encourage us to redouble our efforts to achieve effective implementation of the Minsk agreements.

The majority of people in Europe today, and especially the younger generation, have no personal experience of the horrors of war. We should be thankful for this. It is if nothing else our common responsibility that this remains so in the future as well.

Thank you.

1050th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1050, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1170
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2015 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

**The role of national human rights institutions (NHRI) in promoting and
protecting human rights in the OSCE area**

(Warsaw, 1–3 June 2015)

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote addresses
3. Discussion in four working groups:
 - Working group I: Establishing NHRIs and strengthening their independence and effectiveness
 - Working group II: Good practices in the work of NHRIs in promotion and protection of human rights
 - Working group III: Co-operation between NHRIs and other actors
 - Working group IV: Improving the work of NHRIs and ways to overcome challenges
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Monday, 1 June 2015, at 10 a.m. It will close on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.

3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 3 June 2015, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Furthermore, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will also be taken into account.
7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

III. Work programme

Working hours: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

| | Monday 1 June 2015 | Tuesday 2 June 2015 | Wednesday 3 June 2015 |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Morning | Opening plenary session | WG II | WG IV |
| Afternoon | WG I | WG III | Closing plenary session |