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**Chairmanship: Germany****1111th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 28 July 2016

Opened: 9.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador E. Pohl

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, extended his condolences to the families of the victims of the attacks in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, France on 26 July 2016, in Kabul on 23 July 2016, in Ansbach, Germany on 24 July 2016 and in Munich, Germany on 22 July 2016. Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) thanked the Chairperson for his expression of sympathy.

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

Agenda item 1: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/25/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; 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/1254/16), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1240/16), Canada, Turkey (PC.DEL/1253/16 OSCE+), United States of America

(PC.DEL/1242/16), Kazakhstan, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1251/16 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/1252/16), Belarus, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1248/16)

Agenda item 3:           DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 2016 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING AND THE TOPICS FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE 2016 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1218 (PC.DEC/1218) on the dates of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the topics for the second part of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Poland (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision)

Agenda item 4:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a)   *Situation in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1243/16 OSCE+)*
- (b)   *Situation along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani State border: Armenia (PC.DEL/1255/16), Azerbaijan*
- (c)   *World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed on 30 July 2016: Belarus, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1249/16)*

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

*Visit by the Chairperson-in-Office to Moldova on 26 July 2016: Chairperson (CIO.GAL/134/16)*

Agenda item 6:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

*Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/123/16 OSCE+): Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

Agenda item 7:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a)   *Announcement by the Chairperson-in-Office, in a letter issued on 27 July 2016 (Annex 1), of the adoption through a silence procedure of Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/16 (MC.DEC/2/16) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018, the text of which is appended to this journal: Chairperson, Italy (Annex 2), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision)*

- (b) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE, Ambassador R. Kvile: Chairperson, Norway*
- (c) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE, Ambassador B. Georges: Chairperson, Belgium*
- (d) *Farewell to the Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE, Ambassador I. Poupart: Chairperson, Canada*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 8 September 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1111  
28 July 2016  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**1111th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1111, Agenda item 7(a)

## **LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE**

Berlin, 27 July 2016

Dear Colleagues,

In my capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, I have the honour to inform you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018 (MC.DD/4/16), expiring on 27 July 2016 at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore adopted and effective as of today. It will be attached to the journal of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next regular meeting of the Permanent Council on 28 July 2016.

Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretative statement or a formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the above-mentioned meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

To the Ministers for Foreign Affairs  
of the OSCE participating States



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

PC.JOUR/1111

28 July 2016

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1111th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1111, Agenda item 7(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

On the occasion of the adoption of the decision on the Italian Chairmanship, I would like to cite the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Paolo Gentiloni. While announcing Italy's readiness to assume the 2018 OSCE Chairmanship, he expressed our country's willingness to further step up its commitment to and responsibility for sustaining peace and stability in Europe by all possible means.

As you all know, assuming the OSCE Chairmanship is a huge task, at a time in our history when our entire area has been experiencing so many threats: terrorism, organized crime, cybersecurity threats and the migrant and refugee crisis are just some of the main challenges we have to face on a daily basis. We are convinced that the OSCE is a valuable forum for co-operation and that it needs to be in a position to make the most of its capabilities for the purposes of peace, security and stability.

The comprehensive security approach enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act assigns a crucial role to this Organization and entails a need to pay constant attention to the politico-military, economic-environmental and human dimensions and to the entire range of goals to be attained in all three dimensions.

Against this backdrop, it is our wish and objective to improve East-West relations within a reinforced European security and co-operation architecture, with a view to establishing a "twenty-first century Helsinki", which could meet present challenges and peacefully resolve conflicts, in the interests of the progress and stability of the whole OSCE area. The OSCE executive structures as well as the autonomous institutions and field operations are all valuable tools to this end.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

We do not come from another planet: we are aware that the OSCE is facing difficult times, constantly using all means at its disposal and abiding by the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

If, on the one hand, the crisis in Ukraine has called those principles into question, on the other hand it has clearly reaffirmed how much we need the OSCE. The establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine is a unique example of participating States' common endeavour to foster a peaceful settlement of this conflict. Italy fully supports the SMM and contributes 24 monitors to it. The same support goes to the Normandy Format and Trilateral Contact Group efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the crisis, in application of the Minsk agreements and based on full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine.

But the crisis in Ukraine is not the only one in our region. The persistence of protracted conflicts – and even their exacerbation – is cause for serious concern, and not only for Italy.

The OSCE and its institutions must be in a position to fulfil their mandates in all conflict areas and regions. Protracted conflicts have to be settled in accordance with the agreements reached, as well as with OSCE principles and international law. The status quo is not sustainable: European security can improve only if specific advances are made in the everyday lives of all the inhabitants involved.

The OSCE has always played an essential role in preventing the deterioration of security conditions, in containing the risks resulting from tense situations on the ground and in promoting peaceful and sustainable solutions. During its Chairmanship, Italy intends to continue along this path, assuring full support for existing negotiation formats and promoting any effort useful to a negotiated resolution of protracted conflicts.

Italy supports the negotiations in the framework of the Geneva International Discussions on addressing the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia, in their current format. These represent the most important forum for resolving challenges deriving from the conflict. Likewise, the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms are a fundamental instrument for enhancing stability and improving security on the ground. This is why we welcomed the resumption – after a four-year stalemate – of the Gali Mechanism which, together with the Ergneti Mechanism, can play an essential role, not only by contributing to increasing trust, predictability and transparency, but also by resolving urgent humanitarian issues triggered by the conflict.

We were similarly pleased to welcome the recent resumption of negotiations on Transnistria in the “5+2” format. We hope that this will allow for substantial progress, first and foremost in the interests of the inhabitants. The German Chairmanship is playing a key role in contributing to the revival of this dialogue; the parties should now profit from this favourable situation and continue to engage constructively, redoubling their efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict, based on respect for Moldovan territorial integrity and sovereignty, with a special status for Transnistria.

Italy would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to promote a negotiated and peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. As member of the OSCE Minsk Group, Italy fully supports the work of the Minsk Group and the efforts of the Co-Chairs to reach an agreement on a comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on the core principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, particularly those pertaining to the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples. The escalation of

hostilities in April was a reminder to us all that these efforts must be intensified to consolidate the ceasefire and to create favourable conditions for negotiations. Italy supports the agreement to finalize an OSCE mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations on the line of contact and on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. Italy also supports the efforts of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and the expansion of his team.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have been experiencing an unprecedented migrant and refugee crisis. According to the UNHCR, almost one in every hundred people today is either a refugee, an asylum seeker or a displaced person. In the face of this structural phenomenon, we are urged to redouble our efforts to reinforce co-operation between countries of origin, transit and destination. As you know, Italy has been saving human lives at sea for years. We are convinced that it is high time to switch from an emergency-based migration management approach to a more strategic and organized one. The OSCE's cross-dimensional approach can constitute a valuable complement to other international organizations' actions. The autonomous institutions, the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the field operations are important and helpful tools that have to be further enhanced and promoted.

Mr. Chairperson,

Strengthening co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners is a natural future focus of Italy's efforts to improve stability in the OSCE area. In 1975, with the Helsinki Final Act, it was recognized that the security of the OSCE participating States is indissolubly linked to security in the Mediterranean. This is truer now more than ever. Therefore it is of the utmost importance to revitalize and relaunch the OSCE Mediterranean dimension.

In doing so, we view with interest contacts between civil societies, exchanges among networks of academics and think tanks, and the "track two" initiatives that Italy has continuously encouraged through the OSCE "Med –initiative". Indeed, we believe that co-operation with civil society is complementary and crucial to an enriched institutional dialogue.

During the year of the Italian Chairmanship, we intend to act in close co-ordination and in the spirit of continuity with the present German Chairmanship and the coming Austrian Chairmanship, and to profit from the valuable support of the OSCE executive structures. We will keep open every channel for dialogue with and for listening to all participating States.

Mr. Chairperson,

I began by quoting my Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation. Let me now conclude by highlighting that Prime Minister Renzi said a few days ago that Europe needs bridges, not walls.

In this spirit of service we are preparing ourselves to take on the responsibilities of the OSCE Chairmanship, confident that all participating States will co-operate and support us.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.





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

MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**DECISION No. 2/16  
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2018**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Italy will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018.

MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Azerbaijan:

“Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomed the decision of the Government of the Italian Republic to chair the OSCE in 2018 and views this as a demonstration of Italy’s willingness to contribute to realization of the mission of the Organization to enhance peace and security in its area based on Principles Guiding Inter-State Relations enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

We took note of the position of Italy as incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE in 2018 with regard to resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. As a candidate for this responsible post, Italy held consultations with Azerbaijan and pledged to consult with Azerbaijan on matters related to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We expect implementation of these commitments.

Italy committed to support the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, OSCE decisions and documents, in particular on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders, as it was endorsed in the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic.

The statement we just heard runs counter to the commitments and understandings reached at bilateral level. Azerbaijan will support the efforts of incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship on peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in accordance with the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned joint declaration.

We ask this statement be attached to the journal of the day and the decision adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Armenia:

“The Republic of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks to attach it to the ministerial decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018.

The Republic of Armenia supported assumption of Chairmanship of the OSCE by Italy in 2018 with an understanding that Italy throughout its Chairmanship will fully adhere to the OSCE commitments in regard to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through extending full support to the efforts of the agreed format of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at negotiated and peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, particularly those pertaining to the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

In this regard the delegation of Armenia took note of the statement delivered by the Italian delegation, which also confirmed the supportive position of Italy with regard to the latest agreements on strengthening the capacities of the Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and creating of an OSCE mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani State border.”



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

PC.DEC/1218  
28 July 2016

Original ENGLISH

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**1111th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1111, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1218  
DATES OF THE 2016 HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING AND THE TOPICS FOR THE  
SECOND PART OF THE 2016 HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Decides:

1. That the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw from 19 to 30 September 2016;
2. To select the following topics for the second part of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting: “The International Covenants on Human Rights and their Importance for the OSCE Human Dimension”, “Rights of the Child” and “Freedom of assembly and association”.

PC.DEC/1218  
28 July 2016  
Attachment 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**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:

“In joining the consensus regarding the approval of Warsaw as the venue for the 2016 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the Russian Federation proceeds from the understanding that all members of the official delegations of participating States and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be guaranteed unhindered access and the opportunity to participate fully in the work of the Meeting.

These obligations on the part of Poland as the host State and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as the organizer of the Meeting stem from the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (2006) and the CSCE Helsinki Document (1992) regulating the participation of delegations of States and NGOs in OSCE events. The application of any national norms or European Union regulations restricting such participation is a direct and gross violation of OSCE commitments.

The attempts to restrict or hamper Russian participation in the Meeting that occurred in 2015 should not be repeated. In the event of any discrimination against Russian participants, the Russian Federation reserves the right to terminate its participation in the Meeting, not to consider its results as a basis for the elaboration of draft decisions for the forthcoming OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg and not to allow OSCE events to continue to be held in States practising discriminatory restrictions of this kind.

We also continue to take the position that the theme and organizational modalities of OSCE human dimension events, including the seminar and the three supplementary meetings, are to be considered as a package.

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

PC.DEC/1218  
28 July 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**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:

“In connection with the adoption of the Decision on the Dates of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the special topics for the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The United States is pleased that consensus has been reached on the dates for the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), which will be held, per agreed modalities, for two weeks in Warsaw. We are also pleased that consensus has been reached on the special topics for HDIM. We are concerned, however, by the amount of time it took to reach consensus, largely because of the actions of one participating State.

In preparation for HDIM, and to ensure optimal preparation by all participants, government and civil society representatives alike, we hope that all participating States will adopt the draft agenda as quickly as possible, and work together in a constructive manner in the lead-up to the event.

The United States looks forward to participating in HDIM, and plans to send a substantial and distinguished delegation to Warsaw in September and we hope all delegations will welcome open and robust participation by civil society representatives from across the OSCE region. We call upon all participating States to engage in good faith in the OSCE’s premiere human rights event, and to use HDIM to reflect upon the implementation of our common commitments regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms. We expect that all delegations will take part in HDIM according to the rules of procedure and in accordance with the specific modalities for the HDIM, which are contained in the Helsinki Document 1992, PC Decision No. 241 (1998), PC Decision No. 428 (2001), and PC Decision No. 476 (2002).

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1218  
28 July 2016  
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**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 Poland:

“In connection with the decision on Dates of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Topics for the Second Part of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Poland would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Chairperson,

Poland welcomes the adoption of the decision on Dates of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Topics for the second part of the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. In this context, we wish to recall the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992 and of the Permanent Council Decision No. 476 of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues stipulating that the ODIHR will organize a Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of all participating States, at its seat, to discuss implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments.

In carrying out its function of host State, Poland will continue to act in a manner analogous to the conduct of other participating States hosting the OSCE institutions. As stated on numerous instances at the Permanent Council, Poland upholds its full support for a broad participation of representatives of all OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, and civil society, in accordance with the established OSCE and international practice.

We ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”