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**Chairmanship: Albania****1289th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 12 November 2020 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.  
Resumed: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 5.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Hasani  
Ms. E. Dobrush

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, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, 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, Canada, Georgia and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1607/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1571/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1599/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1570/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1583/20 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1587/20), Georgia (PC.DEL/1591/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF OSCE CO-OPERATION WITH THE  
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Chairperson, Chairperson of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group (Sweden) (PC.DEL/1574/20 OSCE+), Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/173/20 OSCE+), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for

Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1606/20), Malta (PC.DEL/1596/20 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1573/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1572/20 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/1590/20 OSCE+), Switzerland, Italy (PC.DEL/1575/20 OSCE+), Poland (PC.DEL/1576/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3:           DECISION ON THE FORWARDING OF A DRAFT  
AGENDA TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1382 (PC.DEC/1382) on the forwarding of a draft agenda to the Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4:           DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE OF THE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1383 (PC.DEC/1383) on the timetable of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Germany-European Union (with the candidate country North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as San Marino and the United States of America, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision)

Agenda item 5:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1588/20), 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 and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1608/20), United Kingdom, Turkey (PC.DEL/1600/20)

OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1579/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1578/20 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1595/20 OSCE+)

- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1582/20), Ukraine
- (c) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters:* Armenia (Annex 1)
- (d) *Continuing provocative actions and non-transparent military convoy movements in the security zone of the Republic of Moldova:* United States of America (PC.DEL/1580/20), Moldova (Annex 2)
- (e) *Successful completion of the counter-offensive in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the signing of a trilateral statement by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia:* Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Turkey (Annex 4)
- (f) *Situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh:* United States of America (PC.DEL/1581/20), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1577/20 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1594/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1609/20), United Kingdom, Belarus (PC.DEL/1584/20 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1589/20), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1585/20 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, France (PC.DEL/1604/20 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1593/20 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan

Agenda item 6:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Telephone conversation between the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 9 November 2020:* Chairperson
- (b) *Distribution of the status of decisions/documents proposed for adoption by the OSCE Ministerial Council in the year 2020 (MC.INF/3/20) and information on the registration procedures for the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in a virtual format on 3 and 4 December 2020:* Chairperson
- (c) *Reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council, to be held via video teleconference on 23 November 2020:* Chairperson

Agenda item 7:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

- (a) *Update on the COVID-19 situation across the OSCE's executive structures:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/174/20 OSCE+)

- (b) *Update on the Secretariat's response to the terrorist attack in Vienna on 2 November 2020 and to the COVID-19 pandemic:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/174/20 OSCE+)
- (c) *2020 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting, held via video teleconference on 10 and 11 November 2020:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/174/20 OSCE+)
- (d) *Round table on "Leveraging innovation and technology to address 21st century challenges and crises across the OSCE and Asian Partners for Co-operation", held on 9 and 10 November:* Director of the Office of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/174/20 OSCE+)

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 19 November 2020, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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**1289th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 5(c)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Since 27 September the delegation of Armenia has persistently raised at the OSCE Permanent Council the issue of the aggression launched by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the backing of Turkey and the engagement of Turkish-affiliated foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists, aimed at the annihilation of the Armenian population of Artsakh.

The large-scale military aggression was launched in flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian law, as well as of the 1994–1995 trilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Madrid principles endorsed by the Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, all provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, including but not limited to principles related to refraining from the threat or use of force. Amongst its other actions, Azerbaijan has clearly not refrained from the use of force in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process.

From the first days of this aggression it was already evident that the use of force was pre-planned. On a number of occasions the Azerbaijani authorities claimed their right to use force. The new element in this aggression was the fact of the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists, with Turkey playing a primary central role throughout the planning and execution of military offensives.

For more than 40 days the defence army of Artsakh has been fighting against Azerbaijan, Turkey and the latter's affiliated foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists. We have already presented numerous facts and figures on the transfer of modern weaponry and of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists by Turkey to Azerbaijan.

Yesterday, on 11 November, a report by the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination confirmed that, "the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey's assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore-up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the frontline." The report also refers to the role of Turkey in recruiting, deploying and financing such fighters.

This fact confirms that Turkey, an OSCE participating State, has instrumentalized the use of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups. Through its recruitment scheme, this country is financing terrorists and is contributing to the proliferation of terrorist groups and terrorist fighters into different regions and parts of the world. These groups are becoming the proxy army of Turkey to be deployed in various parts of the world.

Madam Chairperson,

Three times in the course of the war, agreements on cessation of hostilities have been reached at the initiative of the leaders and with direct involvement of the foreign ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. The last such agreement was reached on 25 October in Washington. Each time, Azerbaijan – encouraged by Turkey – violated these agreements without any repercussions or any strong reaction from the international community.

Azerbaijan continued to constantly and deliberately target the civilian population and infrastructure, bringing unprecedented deprivation and suffering to the people of Artsakh. Aimed at wiping out the Armenian population, the actions of Azerbaijani side have amounted to ethnic cleansing and have indeed constituted an existential threat to the people of Artsakh.

Moreover, Azerbaijan also attacked the territory of the Republic of Armenia several times, causing civilian casualties and destruction.

In this situation, on 10 November the Prime Minister of Armenia joined the statement by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan on cessation of hostilities and the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian side considers this statement as a document aimed at establishing a ceasefire and ensuring security. Even though the joint statement contains some elements of the settlement of the conflict, it should not be viewed as a comprehensive document, since it does not cover one of the most important issues of the settlement, namely, the status of Artsakh.

Madam Chairperson,

During its aggression, Azerbaijan has inflicted huge damage on settlements and civilian infrastructure. There is not a single settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh which has not been shelled and targeted by Azerbaijan's criminal army. In Stepanakert one can hardly find a single area which has not become the target of missiles and artillery shelling by day and night.

Azerbaijan's use of banned munitions such as cluster bombs and white phosphorus against civilian targets has been confirmed by well-respected international organizations and by medics.

Inhumane and degrading treatment of prisoners of war and other persons held in captivity, public executions, beheadings and killings, the mutilation of and disrespect towards bodies of killed soldiers – these are just a few examples of war crimes committed by

Azerbaijan and its allies in gross violation of all the norms of the international law, including international humanitarian law.

All these crimes committed by Azerbaijan and its supporter Turkey, which are documented and recorded, should be immediately and thoroughly investigated. Azerbaijan and its supporters, who perpetrated these war crimes and crimes against humanity, should be held responsible under the existing international law. All war criminals should be brought to justice.

Madam Chairperson,

As I have mentioned, the Azerbaijani aggression was pursued with the clear intention of annihilating the people of Artsakh. The genocidal intent behind the actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey becomes ever clearer when one considers the Turkish backing of and engagement in military hostilities, and especially such statements by high-level officials of Turkey as “we will fulfil the mission which our grandfathers have carried out centuries ago” or the use of the phrase “leftovers of the sword” when referring to the Armenian people.

Turkey – which a century ago annihilated the Armenian people in their historical homeland in a genocide that it continues to deny to this day – has openly been encouraging and supporting Azerbaijan in every possible way to perpetrate a similar genocidal act in Artsakh.

Given the direct participation of Turkey in Azerbaijan’s aggression against Artsakh and Armenia, as well as the transfer of Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists to the South Caucasus, Armenia can no longer consider this country as a legitimate and equal member of the OSCE Minsk Group. Turkey cannot and should not play any role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict because by its actions it hinders any progress in the settlement process. We call on participating States to continue to put pressure on Turkey to withdraw its military personnel and weapons from the South Caucasus, along with the affiliated terrorist and jihadist groups.

In addition to the intention of the annihilation of the people of Artsakh, the Azerbaijani authorities are planning to erase all traces of Armenian presence, including religious and cultural ones. The acting Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan has declared that the Armenian monastery of Dadivank, which dates back to the ninth century, is “one of the best testimonies of ancient Caucasian Albania”. This monastery was renovated in 2005 because under Azerbaijani rule it was turned into a barn. One can only guess how the rich Armenian cultural heritage and testimony of Armenian presence in the region will be erased or appropriated. A huge amount of Armenian cultural heritage is now under the control of Azerbaijani armed forces and their terrorist affiliates and we already have ample evidence and proof of this cultural heritage being vandalized and destroyed.

Furthermore, we have a documented example in the Azerbaijani authorities’ deliberate destruction of the medieval Armenian cemetery in Jugha. The main intention has been to remove any trace of the native Armenian population of these lands. As a result of these barbaric actions, today there are literally no traces left of the once flourishing Armenian civilization in Nakhijevan.

Madam Chairperson,

The resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the use of force should not be tolerated and cannot be accepted. The 10 November statement should be considered without prejudice to the political settlement of the conflict, and the legitimate rights of the people of Artsakh in relation to self-determination should be respected and realized.

Conditions must be created for the safe and dignified return of the recently displaced population of Nagorno-Karabakh, and their safety and security must likewise be ensured. Armenia reiterates its commitment to achieving a peaceful, lasting and sustainable resolution of the conflict and will continue its efforts to this end within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.





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

PC.JOUR/1289  
12 November 2020  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1289th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 5(d)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Moldova appreciates the interest for the politico-military aspects in the Security Zone of the Republic of Moldova, expressed by the delegations of the United States of America, the European Union and other OSCE participating States.

On this occasion we reiterate that the stationing without the consent of the host country of the Russian military forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the shortcomings in the activity of the current peacekeeping mechanism represent security risks and impediments in resolving the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

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

Thank you.



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**1289th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 5(e)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to inform the Permanent Council that on 10 November 2020, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation had signed the statement, which is aimed at eliminating the consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and paving the way towards establishing just and durable peace in the region.

Under the agreement Armenia and Azerbaijan pledged to a complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities. Armenia committed to withdraw its armed forces from the remaining occupied Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachyn districts of Azerbaijan within a specific timetable by 1 December 2020. Concurrently with the withdrawal of the Armenian troops, the Russian peacekeeping force is deployed for the duration of five years along the new contact line and to the Lachyn corridor. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey are to establish a peacekeeping ceasefire verification centre to enhance the monitoring of the compliance with the obligations of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the adjacent districts under the supervision of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Obstacles to all economic and transport links in the region shall be lifted. The Republic of Armenia shall guarantee the safety of transport links to be established between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchyvan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of facilitating the free movement of persons, vehicles and cargo in both directions. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safe movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the road passing through the Lachyn district of Azerbaijan in both directions. Azerbaijan and Armenia will exchange prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons, and dead bodies.

The trilateral agreement was negotiated by the Russian Federation. Azerbaijan would like to extend its sincere gratitude to President V. Putin for his personal engagement and mediation efforts to this end. Implementation of the agreement will underline an active role of the Russian Federation in the region and in helping Armenia and Azerbaijan to normalize their relations.

Azerbaijan would like to convey its sincere gratitude to the President of Turkey R. Erdogan, Foreign Minister M. Cavusoglu and Defence Minister H. Akar for their active

involvement in settlement of the conflict as well as other senior officials of the Republic of Turkey for the political and moral support extended to Azerbaijan.

The agreement meets the interests of Azerbaijan, Armenia and countries of the region. We share the assessments by the States of the region that implementation of the agreement will create a sound basis for sustainable development of entire South Caucasus.

Active peace-building initiatives of Russia and Turkey and their co-operation in monitoring the implementation of the trilateral agreement can be expanded to other areas of mutual interest with the support of Azerbaijan.

According to the media reports, the ceasefire has held and as the Russian peacekeepers are deploying to the conflict zone, the Armenian armed forces started to withdraw from the occupied Kalbajar and Lachyn districts. Armenia's withdrawal of its troops from the remaining occupied territories of Azerbaijan within next 20 days, as it has pledged in the agreement, would significantly decrease tensions on the ground and would allow to start with assessment and planning of the reconstruction and rehabilitation activities of these territories.

It is absolutely imperative to communicate clear public messages to Armenia and Azerbaijan aimed at backing their efforts to maintain a ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities, withdraw the troops from the remaining occupied territories of Azerbaijan within the agreed deadlines, remove the obstacles to regional communication and transportation links, return the displaced population to their homes of origin and gradually normalize their relations.

The agreement symbolized the triumph of international law, supremacy of the UN Security Council resolutions and OSCE principles and commitments. We expect that the 10 November agreement will enjoy broad support by the OSCE and its participating States, especially of those delegations, which over the last weeks have repeatedly called for a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

Attempts to downplay the importance of the agreement, link it with some old ideas and proposals, which do not enjoy consensus of the sides, or to undermine its implementation due to some geopolitical ambitions go against the letter and spirit of the conflict resolution efforts and must be categorically rejected and condemned. Any future role of the OSCE and its participating States in building peace in the region depends on the support to the implementation of this agreement as well as their respective contribution to establishing a just and durable peace in the region.

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

Thank you.



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**1289th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 5(e)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I thank my distinguished Azerbaijani colleague, Ambassador Israfilov, for informing the Permanent Council on the latest developments. I thank him for his words regarding Turkey.

As President Erdoğan did yesterday and Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu today, we congratulate Azerbaijan and the people of Azerbaijan for the successful completion of the counteroffensive in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Madam Chairperson,

Turkey always supported a negotiated solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on international law, relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and OSCE decisions, ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan in order to achieve a lasting peace.

Turkey has been emphasizing that for any ceasefire to be sustainable it has to be part of a lasting solution, that there must be a timetable for the withdrawal of occupying forces and that the internally displaced persons must be able to return.

Turkey has been stressing that it will support whichever solution Azerbaijan prefers.

The statement by the President of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation on 10 November is an important step. It can pave the way for a lasting solution.

We would like to note the important role played by the Russian Federation. The Russian side has been in contact with both parties. Dialogue continued and finally both sides agreed on this statement.

A significant aspect of this statement is the monitoring and verification of the ceasefire. Upon the request of Azerbaijan, Turkey agreed to become part of the ceasefire monitoring. For this purpose, Turkey will establish a joint centre with the Russian Federation in Azerbaijan. A memorandum on this issue was signed yesterday between the Turkish

Minister of National Defence and his Russian counterpart. The centre will be established at appropriate locations to be determined by the host country Azerbaijan.

Turkey wishes that this ceasefire and the mechanism would pave the way for sustainable peace and stability. The whole region will benefit from this process, including the Armenian people. We sincerely believe in this.

We join Azerbaijan's call that the OSCE and its participating States support the 10 November statement.

Madam Chairperson,

Given these promising developments, it is disappointing, it is sad that one delegation insists on perpetuating its well-known narrative. I said everything necessary in the last seven weeks. I do not see any added value in repeating.

I want to highlight something else. Somehow, we should also consider the current state of mind. You are encroaching on someone else's territory. You occupy it for almost 30 years. You become used to treat it as your own. You teach and preach this to your people. You propagate hate and enmity. Then justice prevails and you realize that you have to let go. Obviously, withdrawal becomes difficult. But the realities of life prevail.

However, instead of creating problems and conflicts with its neighbours or sustaining the occupation, this participating State should consider the benefits and opportunities of regional stability and economic welfare. When there is peace, everyone will profit. We sincerely believe in this.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

PC.DEC/1382  
12 November 2020

Original: ENGLISH

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**1289th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1382  
FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA  
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to request the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council a draft agenda for the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.



**1289th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1289, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1383**  
**TIMETABLE OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING**  
**OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Tirana, 3 and 4 December 2020)

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing that the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be conducted in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure,

Adopts the timetable of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council as set out below.

**Timetable**

**Thursday, 3 December 2020**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Opening session (open)**

- Formal opening and adoption of the agenda
- Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
- Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Report by the OSCE Secretariat

**First plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations

3–6 p.m.

**Second plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations

**Friday, 4 December 2020**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Third plenary session (closed)**

- Statements by heads of delegations
- Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
- Closing statements by delegations
- Any other business

**Closing session (open)**

- Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)

1.30 p.m.

Press conference



PC.DEC/1383  
12 November 2020  
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 Permanent Council decision on the adoption of the timetable of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Russian Federation expresses its deep disappointment at the fact that once again it proved impossible to reach agreement on a list of international organizations, institutions and initiatives whose representatives will be invited to the Ministerial Council meeting and will have the right to address the meeting and/or distribute written statements, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Unfortunately, during the discussions, it again proved impossible to agree on the question of equal rights for organizations. We note the attempts to establish a discriminatory hierarchy for them, artificially giving some a higher status than others. This contravenes the provisions of the Platform for Co-operative Security of the 1999 Charter for European Security.

The Russian Federation hopes that in future the OSCE participating States will manage to overcome their differences on this question.

We take the position that, in the absence of a Permanent Council decision on the organizational modalities for the holding of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, statements by representatives of international organizations during the Ministerial Council meeting should be possible solely in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE – only on the basis of an oral consensus decision by all OSCE participating States.

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

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

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

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the timetable for the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement.

Paragraph IV.2(B)2 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure states that ‘the decision on the timetable and organizational modalities for each Ministerial Council meeting shall be adopted by the Permanent Council not later than one month before the meeting.’

While the European Union welcomes the decision adopting the timetable for the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, we regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for the Meeting, and in particular on which organizations to invite and the modalities of their participation.

Under the OSCE Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministerial Council, paragraph IV.2(B)5 states that, ‘For each meeting, the Permanent Council shall specify the list of international organizations, institutions, and initiatives to be invited to attend and to make oral and/or written contributions.’ In the absence of consensus on this issue, the Chairmanship-in-Office should fall back on past agreed modalities.

The decision on the timetable of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council does not represent a precedent for the organization of future Ministerial Council meetings.

We request that this statement be attached to the relevant decision.”

The candidate country the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as San Marino and the United States of America align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.