
Chairmanship: Poland**1367th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 7 April 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 2), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), Canada (Annex 5), Turkey (Annex 6), United Kingdom (Annex 7), Switzerland (PC.DEL/518/22 OSCE+), Montenegro (also on behalf of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 8), Georgia (Annex 9), Iceland (Annex 10), Norway (Annex 11), Latvia, Portugal (Annex 12), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/18/22 OSCE+)

- (d) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with the members of the Contact Group for the Crisis in Ukraine established in the framework of the League of Arab States, held in Warsaw on 5 April 2022: Chairperson*
- (e) *Announcement of the resumption of the work of the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee: Chairperson, Chairperson of the Security Committee, Representative of the Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee, Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee, France-European Union (Annex 22), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (Annex 23), Ukraine, United States of America (PC.DEL/524/22 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 5: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons on the theme of “Protection: Upholding victims’ rights and strengthening assistance”, held in Vienna and via video teleconference from 4 to 6 April 2022: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/46/22 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Participation of the Secretary General in the Moldova Support Conference – “Bridge of Solidarity”, held in Berlin on 5 April 2022: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/46/22 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *General election in Sweden, to be held on 11 September 2022: Sweden*
- (b) *Parliamentary elections in Malta, held on 26 March 2022: Malta (PC.DEL/545/22)*
- (c) *Democracy Defender Award presentation and seminar, to be held in Vienna on 4 May 2022: Switzerland (also on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/530/22 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Moldova Support Conference – “Bridge of Solidarity”, held in Berlin on 5 April 2022: Germany (PC.DEL/532/22), France, Romania (PC.DEL/583/22 OSCE+), Moldova*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 28 April 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We once again reiterate our rejection of the first agenda item proposed by the Chairmanship for today's meeting of the Permanent Council. We urge you, Mr. Chairperson, to formulate the topics for discussion in strict accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, which require that the views of all the participating States, not country groups or alliances, be taken into account. Moreover, such an approach is clearly stipulated in paragraph 2(b) of Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002.

We again urge the Polish Chairmanship to adhere strictly to the procedures agreed upon by all the participating States, to stop interpreting these at will, and to provide equitable, non-discriminatory opportunities for discussions at the Permanent Council.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday, Putin's spokesperson described the flight of Russian gangs from the Kyiv region as a "gesture of good will".

Of course, he can describe their evil deeds in whatever way he wants.

However, we all know the real character of this "gesture" – and of the so-called "denazification" that they unleashed upon the Ukrainian people.

We continue to discover the corpses of those killed, executed, tortured or starved to death.

Russists launched what was literally a killing spree, targeting local civilians in these villages and towns. It was an organized campaign of mass terror, carried out as part of the Kremlin's plan for Ukraine.

And now we see how Moscow is trying to divert attention from the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by its soldiers in the Kyiv region.

Because according to Putin's initial plan no one was supposed to gain access to the scene of the crimes. Especially no international or independent actors.

In fact, now they are doing the same things as they did in the case of MH17. And in many other cases.

They are spreading numerous conspiracy narratives in order to call the reality into question.

And it is indeed a poor show, the way in which they are trying to whitewash Russia's reputation.

However, Russia's good reputation has already been lost because of the treacherousness of the Kremlin and the barbarity of the Russian military.

It was likewise lost by Russian diplomats when they repeatedly lied by denying the preparations for the war.

And this reputation cannot be recovered by those who continue whitewashing war criminals.

Instead of further losing its credibility, Moscow should start co-operating with the relevant international mechanisms that Ukraine has invited to investigate what happened in the Kyiv region under Russia's temporary occupation.

Let me reiterate unequivocally – Ukraine is open to international independent investigation.

Ukraine has also addressed the relevant request to the International Criminal Court.

And we will do our utmost to gather evidence as soon as possible in order to establish facts and bring those who committed these atrocities to justice.

Justice has to prevail. In the name of all innocent victims.

For this, Russia needs to withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine, acknowledge responsibility for the committing of grave international crimes, ensure reparation to victims, and provide solid guarantees of non-repetition of aggression and other acts internationally recognized as wrongful. This would be the best way to proceed for Russia.

However, new evidence of brutal crimes is emerging in other regions.

The Russian so-called “army” continues shelling civilian objects.

Only last night, the residential areas of Kharkiv were shelled 27 times with different types of weapons.

After Russia retreated from Chernihiv, a new cemetery of victims of barbaric shelling appeared before our eyes.

Yesterday in Vuhledar, Donetsk region, civilians were shelled while they were queuing to receive humanitarian aid. Four people killed.

Owing to indiscriminate shelling, a tank of toxic nitric acid was blown up in Rubizhne, Luhansk region.

Russia's irresponsible behaviour is creating a new risk of chemical incidents. And we do need to be vigilant, because the Russian Defence Ministry has started blaming Ukraine for the preparation of “a provocation with the use of poisonous substances” in the city of Pervomaiskyi, Kharkiv region.

At the same time, it is chilling to hear from Mariupol city council that the Russian invaders have started using mobile crematoria.

It seems that after the Bucha massacre, the Russian side has decided to destroy traces of its crimes.

But there are already too many witnesses of Russia's atrocities in Ukraine. And too many Ukrainians have faced the brutality of the Russist army.

These memories cannot be burned in mobile crematoria. And these memories cannot be erased with deceitful statements.

I will give just a few examples what Russians have done in other regions. According to Human Rights Watch, on 27 February, Russian forces in the village of Staryi Bykiv, Chernihiv region, rounded up at least six men and later executed them.

On 13 March, as a woman told Human Rights Watch, a Russian soldier repeatedly raped her in a school in the Kharkiv region where she and her family had been sheltering. He also beat her and cut her face, neck and hair with a knife.

There are a lot of other equally terrifying accounts and they are similar to what we saw in the Kyiv region. They all appear to reflect a general policy pursued by the Russian forces in the occupied territories. All of them will be thoroughly investigated and documented for future trials.

For the time being, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has registered about 4,690 cases related to war crimes.

And last but not least, let me come back to the Kyiv region. While retreating, Russian soldiers left "bloody gifts" for the civilians coming back to their homes.

On a massive scale, they planted booby traps banned by international law.

Food facilities, private housing and even human corpses are a particular risk to the civilians. Invaders even deliberately mined toys, putting kids in danger.

That is how they want to kill our future. They did it intentionally. And they wanted to inflict as much damage and suffering as possible.

In view of this, the urgency of demining operations and related activities in the liberated territories is growing. And we believe the OSCE could offer its expertise and implement relevant practical projects in this regard.

Distinguished colleagues,

To conclude, I wish to recall another tragic date.

Today is the anniversary of the Samashki massacre.

Back in 1995, on 7 and 8 April, Russia conducted a so-called cleansing operation at the Chechen village of Samashki.

In March 1996, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights reported the massacre of over a hundred people, mainly civilians. In just two days. The troops opened fire or threw grenades into basements where residents, mostly women, the elderly and children were hiding.

Today in Ukraine, Russia is using the same tactics and methods.

How did Russia get to this point? To this Nazi-like level of cruelty?

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

Seven weeks ago, President Putin decided to wage a war of aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of the UN Charter and OSCE principles and commitments. With every passing day, we see images with graphic details of the horrifying consequences and immense suffering Russia's war has inflicted on the Ukrainian civilian population: thousands of lives have been lost due to the aggression of the Russian armed forces, ten million people – most of them women and children – have been forced to leave their homes. Over 500 schools and 52 hospitals have been shelled and entire cities have been razed to the ground. The presence of explosive ordnances and mines, including drifting naval mines recently discovered in the Black Sea are further increasing the risk of more casualties, also beyond the borders of Ukraine. This senseless barbarity must stop.

The European Union is shocked and appalled by the reported atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces. As stated in the special meeting of the Permanent Council earlier this week, we condemn in the strongest terms the massive atrocities committed in Bucha and Borodianka as well as in Irpen Hostomel, Ivankiv and other places that have now been liberated by Ukraine. Those acts could be constitutive of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We are equally shocked by the ongoing ghastly siege of Mariupol and the constant shelling of other places, including Chernihiv and Kharkiv. People are left without water, food, medicines, heating or electricity while schools, hospitals, and residential buildings are being continuously shelled. There are indiscriminate attacks, including in densely populated areas, as well as on civilian facilities. We also receive deeply disturbing reports, including from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, of cluster munitions and other UN-prohibited weapons being used in populated areas alongside reports of forced displacements, torture and ill treatment as well as gender-based violence. These horrendous acts are illegal according to international humanitarian law, by which Russia is also bound.

All perpetrators must be held to account. We welcome the investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court into alleged crimes under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. We urge Russia to abide by the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice ordering Russia to suspend its military operations immediately. We will soon have the opportunity to discuss the report of

the OSCE Moscow Mechanism expert mission about violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. We also appreciate the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' initiative to document violations of human rights and international humanitarian law standards. Moreover, the European Union is assisting the Ukrainian Prosecutor General and civil society in collecting and preserving the evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity. With a view to making the best use of these efforts, we encourage close and continuous co-operation among all those involved.

President Putin's invasion of Ukraine also aims to erase Ukraine's identity, distinct history and culture. UNESCO has confirmed that at least 53 historical sites, religious buildings, and museums have so far been damaged during Russia's military aggression. Russia is bound by the 1954 Hague Convention to protect cultural property during armed conflict. Intentionally directing attacks against a protected cultural heritage site constitutes a war crime. We demand that Russia stops its senseless attacks against cultural heritage sites in Ukraine.

It is also absolutely unacceptable that the Russian armed forces are continuing to kidnap, torture and execute democratically elected local leaders. To name a few: we are repulsed by the abduction and reported brutal execution of Mayor Olha Sukhenko by the Russian armed forces. Her body, as well as the bodies of her family members, were found in a hole in the ground outside their hometown Motyzhyn. Furthermore, local leader Alexei Shibayev has been reportedly abducted by the Russian armed forces, while accompanying humanitarian cargo. We condemn all kidnappings and demand Russia to immediately release all hostages. We steadfastly support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. Any attempt by Russia to create illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Ukraine will be considered null and void. The same goes for similar attempts in other places where Russia has interfered in past years.

Moreover, the European Union deeply regrets that Russia is not only disregarding every obligation under international law and dismantling every single security guarantee on the ground, but is also hampering any opportunity for impartial information and reporting of the true security situation in Ukraine. As we stated last week, the Russian announcement that it is not in a position to consent to the extension of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine's (SMM) mandate is deeply regrettable, although not surprising. Against the backdrop of Russia's military aggression and destabilizing activities in Ukraine since 2014, the SMM has been carrying out invaluable work in gathering information and reporting impartially as well as facilitating dialogue, negotiating local ceasefires and improving the lives of the Ukrainian people. We again strongly urge Russia to engage constructively in the consultations as proposed by the Chairmanship and to reconsider its position in order to allow the SMM to continue its work.

Furthermore, as a regional security organization under the UN Charter with a multifaceted conflict cycle toolbox as outlined in Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11, the OSCE has a unique role to play in conflict situations. We support all efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship, the OSCE executive structures and autonomous institutions in this regard, including through the co-ordination and facilitation of humanitarian assistance, supporting safe pathways and humanitarian convoys as well as assessing human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's aggression. We urge all participating States, in particular

Russia, to make use of the tools at hand and to co-operate with the OSCE institutions in good faith.

The war is not only fought on the ground, but also in the digital sphere. It is clear that the Kremlin is attempting to twist and turn historical narratives of the Second World War in a shameful disinformation campaign in order to hide the real facts of Russia's attacks on civilians in Ukraine. Reliable information has therefore never been as important as today. We commend the work of fact-checkers all over the world, especially those in Ukraine, working every day to push back against lies and manipulations. In this context, we deeply regret that journalists and other media actors in Ukraine are falling victims to Russia's war, including the famous Lithuanian documentary filmmaker Mantas Kvedaravičius, the Franco-Irish photojournalist Pierre Zakrzewski and the well-known Ukrainian photojournalist Maksim Levin. We convey our deepest condolences to their families. Journalists are civilians who perform a critical role in providing information during a conflict and must not be a target.

We are dismayed by Russia's disregard for international legal norms and political commitments, including those Russia has subscribed to within the OSCE. We again urge Russia to uphold its commitments: Russia must immediately release all those arrested in peaceful protests, as well as those imprisoned on politically motivated charges, including all media actors.

We are also witnessing massive internal displacement of people and huge numbers of people fleeing Ukraine to neighbouring countries, mainly women and children, as well as elderly people. The European Union and its Member States are providing shelter as well as humanitarian, medical and financial aid to the more than four million people who have fled Russia's violence. They also have access to education and labour market. As discussed during the 22nd High-Level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference this week, women and children are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses in all conflict situations or situations of displacement. It is therefore of utmost importance to protect them against gender-based violence and trafficking and other forms of exploitation, as required by international humanitarian law, a duty that falls in particular on the occupation forces.

The European Union condemns Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. Russia must also urgently provide safe pathways, both for civilians to evacuate to other parts of Ukraine, as well as for those delivering humanitarian assistance. We also reiterate our call on the co-aggressor, Belarus, to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. The European Union will continue to firmly support Ukraine and will advance, as a matter of urgency, work on further sanctions against Russia and Belarus. We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in these sombre hours.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

As we enter the seventh week of Russia's unprovoked and vicious war on Ukraine, I want to spend a few minutes detailing the human costs of the tragedy wrought by the Russian Federation, especially on the most vulnerable members of Ukrainian society: children.

Although we warned this Council repeatedly in the weeks and months prior to 24 February that Russia was planning an invasion that would bring about a massive human and humanitarian tragedy – predictions that the Russian Federation's representatives at the time dismissed as “hype” – I must admit that it was difficult then to fully and adequately articulate the monstrous atrocities that would befall the Ukrainian people. Wickedness is usually hard to predict, but it is always shocking.

Russia's assault on Ukraine has so far violently taken the lives of over 120 children and injured at least 171 – numbers that the United Nations admits are likely to be a significant undercount.

Children who six weeks ago were playing carefree with their friends in schoolyards throughout Ukraine, kicking around footballs, daydreaming of superheroes, dressing up dolls and jumping rope. Children who had their whole lives ahead of them. Children who today should be outside enjoying the warm spring sunshine but are instead crushed under the rubble of an apartment building or a theatre or a school levelled by a Russian missile. One struggles, painfully, to imagine what those last, terrifying moments must have been like for them.

The father of two-year-old Stepan Shpak, who was buried by debris from Russian shelling near Kyiv on 16 March, summed up his own senseless loss, asking, “What is this all for? For what? A two-year-old child who hasn't experienced life yet.”

Or Kirill Yatsko, an 18-month-old boy, killed after his home in Mariupol was shelled by Russian forces in early March. Video footage from Sky News showed the little toddler being taken to a hospital, wrapped in a blanket, injured by shrapnel. The footage shows his mother crying “Why, why, why?” after his death.

Or consider Vova Karivansky, a young boy whose mother was interviewed by NPR. Vova was recovering in a hospital after his body was grazed by multiple bullets, his jaw wired shut after many surgeries. Vova sustained his injuries when the car he was traveling in was shot by Russian forces as his family fled the neighbourhood they lived in outside of Kyiv. Vova's mother, Natalia, explained what happened: "So yes, we were together, the whole family in one car. And the car was fired at. So [my husband] died there on the spot. And just when we started screaming, the children are in here, it was too late for my husband and for Maxim." Maxim, by the way, was her six-year-old nephew.

There are many more such stories, each as painful as the last. That is why it is so important to continue documenting the fact that Russia's forces have destroyed schools and shelters, including those like the Mariupol drama theatre, which had the word "children" written outside in massive letters by parents desperate to save the lives of their children. Let us also not forget that as Ukrainian mothers have tried to take their children to safety, Russia's forces have repeatedly bombed humanitarian corridors. As Ukrainian parents seek to keep their families together at all costs, Russia's forces deport Ukrainian women and children to Russia.

And in the last few days, as the distinguished Ukrainian ambassador has just noted, we have all heard the absolutely chilling reports from Mariupol of mobile crematoria being used to dispose of human remains. It is disgusting.

Russia's war has displaced 60 per cent of all children in Ukraine from their homes, including over two million refugees and 2.5 million internally displaced. More than half of all Ukrainian refugees are children. Children and their families remain trapped by fighting throughout eastern Ukraine, without access to drinking water, food, or medicine. Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov told many of us in this Council just last month that Russia regularly blocks aid shipments meant for these trapped civilians or steals the aid before it can arrive.

Even among those children who have managed to flee, the United Nations Children's Fund's Executive Director Cathy Russell has underlined their vulnerability to risks of trafficking and other forms of exploitation, saying, "As the number of children fleeing their homes continues to climb, we must remember that every single one of them needs protection, education, safety and support."

A growing body of research indicates that childhood trauma profoundly affects a child's development, with potentially lifelong consequences for learning, behaviour, and health. Ukraine's children will require sustained psychosocial support to process the horrors they are being forced to endure week after week.

Mr. Chairperson, Ukraine's children embody the moral urgency of this moment. The United States and other donors continue to expand the scope of our humanitarian work to meet the challenge. We are leveraging every tool within the OSCE to enhance our humanitarian support to Ukrainians in need. We also continue to expand our support for humanitarian partners, including the World Food Programme, which is providing over a million people in Ukraine with emergency food assistance. Our humanitarian funding additionally supports the operation of mobile medical teams that provide continued primary health services, psychological support, trauma care, and vaccinations to vulnerable populations in Ukraine, including children, to ensure they have access to services and are

protected from the risks such as child trafficking. We also continue to work to ensure the delivery of essential supplies to children and their families sheltering in besieged cities, such as Mariupol.

Mr. Chairperson, let there be no doubt: Russia's war on Ukraine – the death and trauma that Putin's regime is inflicting on Ukraine's next generation – will never be forgotten. These young witnesses to Russia's acts of violence against their families and country will make the next generation more committed than ever to the freedom and independence of their country – just as the children of the Second World War who dreamed of a Europe free and at peace. As Vasily Grossman once wrote, "In the cruel and terrible time in which our generation has been condemned to live on this earth, we must never make peace with evil. We must never become indifferent to others or undemanding of ourselves."

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



1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Like others, I would like to follow up on the discussion we had at the special Permanent Council meeting on Tuesday. We have all witnessed the horrific acts in Bucha, in Irpin, in Motyzhyn, and our Ukrainian, European Union and United States colleagues have just described some of these in detail. Yet, Russia is continuing its shameful attempts to justify and rationalize the decisions of its leadership and the actions of its armed forces.

Over the several months prior to Russia's invasion, we collectively warned that Russia was positioning troops and equipment to invade Ukraine; we warned of the increasing number of troops along the border; and we warned against further military aggression by Russia against Ukraine. Russia vehemently denied all of this, and not only did they deny it, but they tried to ridicule those who spoke in concern.

On 27 January, in this very Council, the Russian ambassador called such concerns "invasion scare stories, heard primarily from the United States" and "an imaginary threat of invasion". Even on 17 February, just one week before the invasion, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative mocked the idea of "the myth of Russia's alleged 'imminent invasion'" and called it a "fiasco in propaganda" and "irresponsible 'information terrorism'". They made these claims just one week before Russian bombs and missiles started falling on Ukraine, and Russian troops streamed across the Russian and Belarusian borders. These claims are part of OSCE records and cannot be denied. We encourage the Russian delegation to refer to PC.DEL/80/22 and PC.DEL/203/22 if needed.

Mr. Chairperson,

After the invasion started, Russia said that it uses precision-guided weapons on military targets, and that it would not target civilians and civilian infrastructure. This was another lie. The truth is this: the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights has credible reports that Russian armed forces have used cluster munitions in or near populated areas of Ukraine at least 24 times. Not to mention their widespread use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in or near densely populated areas, and what appears to be the deliberate targeting by Russia of Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure – including schools, hospitals, and bomb shelters.

Russia accused Ukraine of planning the use of chemical weapons or of building a “dirty” bomb. Yet, it is Russia who launched a military attack on Chornobyl and the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and shelled and damaged the Sumykhimprom chemical plant, causing an ammonia gas leak.

Russia claims to defend Russian speakers and denounces “Russophobia”. Yet, Russia has destroyed Kharkiv, Mariupol, and other cities with significant Russian-speaking populations. The same Russian-speaking inhabitants Russia claims to be protecting have been enduring indiscriminate and unlawful attacks from Russian forces day after day and are fiercely and determinedly resisting this unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion.

In this Council, we have also been subject to a string of clumsy and implausible after-the-fact attempts to justify an unjustifiable war. Now we hear similarly implausible and repugnant attempts to deflect blame and create a false narrative around the atrocities committed by Russia’s troops in the regions under Russian military control.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have all seen this pattern of attempting to justify what cannot be justified. The world knows the truth. Russia will have to live with the shame and consequences of its actions. Russia will have to live with how it failed to uphold its responsibilities as a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council.

Russia has violated and shown disregard for our shared OSCE commitments, including the Principles of the Inviolability of Frontiers and Territorial Integrity of States that it pushed to be part of the Helsinki Final Act. Once this conflict is over, the Russian Government will have a monumental task to start rebuilding any semblance of trust.

But for now, as the war continues and as Russian atrocities are uncovered, the International Criminal Court is gathering evidence, following the largest referral in its history. Those responsible for these atrocities will be held to account.

We reiterate our call on Russia to comply immediately with the legally binding order of the International Court of Justice to suspend its military operations in Ukraine. Further, we urge Russia to immediately remove its armed forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

The situation in Ukraine is one which will mark our generation and generations to come.

Last Tuesday, in the special Permanent Council, we focused on the concerning and sorrowing media reports of the massacre from various districts around Kyiv, including Bucha and Irpin. These images are appalling and worrisome in the name of humanity.

We share the pain of Ukrainian people. Targeting innocent civilians can never be accepted.

Identifying those who are responsible and bringing them to account by holding an independent investigation is our main expectation.

Day by day, the humanitarian situation on the ground is being worsened in every aspects. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 10.5 million people have been displaced either within Ukraine or abroad as refugees, which constitute around a quarter of the population. In total, 13 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance across the country.

According to estimates of the United Nations Children's Fund, two million children have now been forced to flee Ukraine and more than 2.5 million children have been internally displaced.

There is an urgent need for a permanent ceasefire in Ukraine. There is an urgent need to find a political solution to the ongoing humanitarian tragedy. A just, fair and lasting peace is needed immediately. Therefore, meaningful momentum of the recent Istanbul meeting should be sustained urgently. Our country will continue to lend every kind of support regarding the process to enable immediate establishment of peace.

Evacuation efforts, particularly from the Mariupol region, should be facilitated.

Turkey, for its part, is ready to constructively take part in possible humanitarian evacuation efforts from the Mariupol region through the Black Sea. Humanitarian assistance of the Turkish Government will also continue unabatedly. So far, 62 and five truckloads of humanitarian assistance have been delivered to Ukraine and Moldova, respectively. We will never give up our efforts in supporting the people of Ukraine. We also continue to support and facilitate United Nations aid operations launched from Turkey.

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we wish to underline the importance of acting with common sense and maintaining dialogue.

Furthermore, let me take this opportunity to reiterate that we reject the ongoing assault against Ukraine. We strongly support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

My country wants peace, stability and prosperity in its region. We will sustain to sincerely contribute to any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

We kindly ask that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to thank you for Poland's leadership as the Chairmanship of our Organization in the wake of Russia's premeditated and unjustified invasion of Ukraine. In particular, I am grateful to you for calling a special meeting of the Permanent Council on Tuesday. It gave all delegations an important opportunity to discuss the latest horrifying evidence of Russia's atrocities in Bucha, and other towns in the Kyiv region, and to pay our respects to the victims.

On Tuesday, the United Kingdom also chaired an important discussion of the United Nations Security Council, where Council members heard directly from President Zelenskyy about the barbarity of Russian forces. His report on the torture of Ukrainian civilians by Russian forces was harrowing. He told the Council of people shot in the streets, of limbs cut off and tongues removed, and of women raped in front of their children.

Horrifyingly, more and more reports are emerging of rape and sexual violence committed by Russian forces in Ukraine. Let me be very clear – the perpetration of sexual violence in armed conflict is a war crime.

I commend the immense courage of those speaking out after experiencing sexual violence at the hands of the Russian armed forces. Earlier this week on a visit to Poland, my Foreign Minister was clear that the United Kingdom stands ready to support those affected by such violence.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to pay tribute to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General for her determination and for her team's work to prepare the necessary legal evidence to ensure accountability. The United Kingdom will do all we can to bring the perpetrators of all war crimes to justice. That is why the United Kingdom will provide military, policing and financial support to help to uncover evidence of such crimes and ultimately seek justice. On 24 March, we announced an additional one million pound sterling of funding for the International Criminal Court to help to uncover evidence of war crimes and we are providing UK experts to support the investigation.

I would also like to pay tribute to the professionalism and bravery of journalists who are working in Ukraine to expose the truth about President Putin's war and the barbaric treatment of civilians. The United Kingdom is a proud member of the OSCE Group of

Friends on Safety of Journalists and I fully subscribe to the joint statement being delivered on behalf of that group today. Last week we also heard important testimony from Kakhovka journalist Oleg Baturin, who shared his story of being abducted and tortured by Russian forces. His captors told him that this was in revenge for his journalistic activity. Sadly, Mr. Baturin's case is far from unique, as Russia attempts to hide evidence of its crimes from the world.

On this note, I would like to address the Russian delegation. The atrocities we have seen in Bucha, in Irpin, in Borodyanka and throughout Ukraine are appalling. They will forever be a moral stain upon the Russian army. But they will forever too be a moral stain on the Russian diplomatic service, whose denial and attempted justification of crimes by the Russian armed forces enables them. Look at what is being done in your name. Look at what it is you are unsuccessfully attempting to justify.

Mr. Chairperson, human rights are being grossly violated in areas that remain under the control of Russian forces. We continue to be deeply concerned at reports of abductions, killings, torture and forced deportation of Ukrainian civilians. We also deplore the latest round of conscription of residents of Crimea into the Russian armed forces – drawing them into war against their compatriots.

Mr. Chairperson, President Putin will never be able to break the spirit of Ukraine's people or conquer their homeland. His continued war of choice can achieve nothing but further suffering. We call on Russia in the strongest possible terms to end its attacks on civilians in all their forms, to pull back their troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and to stop this war. The United Kingdom will remain resolute in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity within its internationally recognized borders.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO (ALSO ON BEHALF OF
AUSTRIA, CANADA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE,
GERMANY, GREECE, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORWAY, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

I am speaking on behalf of the informal OSCE Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists, composed of the following participating States: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Last week, at the funeral of the cameraman Pierre Zakrzewski in Dublin, Father Kieran Dunne told the congregation: “Truth telling is a work of love, and love always comes at a price, and what a terrible price.” Mr. Zakrzewski is one of at least six journalists who have been killed since 24 February in the course of their journalistic work, whilst covering Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Unfortunately, their numbers keep growing. Only recently, we learnt of the death of the well-known photojournalist Maksim (Maks) Levin who had gone missing on 13 March, after he had last been seen in the Vyshgorod district near Kyiv, where he went to photograph the frontline. A Lithuanian documentary filmmaker, Mantas Kvedaravičius, was killed in Mariupol, a city he had documented for years. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of all journalists who have been killed in Russia’s premeditated and unjustified war.

In times of war, the work of free, independent and professional journalists and media actors is of critical importance for providing objective information to the international community. This has been tragically underlined by recent reports on atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in a number of occupied Ukrainian towns that have now been liberated. Russia, however, wants to stop journalists and foreign correspondents from providing fact-based coverage of the war and from shining a light on the human suffering caused by their military aggression against Ukraine. Because Russia knows, as we do, that facts matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists welcomes the recent statements by Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, including her powerful statement of 3 March. In that statement, Ms. Ribeiro condemned strongly Russia's military attack and stressed that "first and foremost, journalists should never be targets" and that participating States should adopt all feasible measures to protect media workers.

Additionally, in her 25 March video statement to journalists working in Ukraine, Ms. Ribeiro said: "Journalists are to be considered civilians and therefore cannot be attacked or abducted. This includes their equipment. It also includes a duty to respect their professional independence."

Unfortunately, journalists in Ukraine are not safe from attacks by the invading army. On the contrary, there are reports of the Russian military targeting journalists. There are reports of at least 148 cases of journalists being targeted in the first month of the Russian invasion. As highlighted by the Representative on Freedom of the Media in her 24 March statement, there has been a growing number of reports on cases of disappearance and abduction of Ukrainian journalists and hostage taking of their relatives. There was the attack on a Sky News team, recorded on camera. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reported the case of a fixer for Radio France who was kidnapped by Russian soldiers and, during nine days of captivity, was beaten with an iron bar, subjected to electric shocks, and faced a mock execution.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly condemn all attacks on journalists and media workers. We urgently call on Russia to immediately end their attacks on independent media and to respect the rights of journalists and media workers in accordance with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and OSCE commitments.

We stand with journalists and media workers who, at great personal risk and sacrifice, continue to report the facts and bring Russia's human rights violations and abuses, as well as war crimes, to light. We commend their professionalism and resilience to ensure the free flow of independent information despite the most challenging circumstances.

Mr. Chairperson, we call on Russia to end its war on Ukraine and withdraw all troops without delay.

I ask, Mr. Chairperson, that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1367
7 April 2022
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Georgia aligns with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. In addition, allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

This is the tenth meeting of the Permanent Council in which we have addressed Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Over this period, Ukrainians courageously resist and stand tall for their homeland and for freedom and democracy.

As the indiscriminate and targeted shelling of civilians and civilian objects continues, we hear reports of horrendous war crimes perpetrated by the occupation forces. Just two days ago we gathered in this chamber to condemn the massacre in Bucha. Sadly, this is not an isolated case: similar reports are coming daily from Irpin, Borodyanka, Hostomel, Iziium and numerous other Ukrainian towns and settlements.

The situation is extremely alarming in the besieged city of Mariupol, where 160,000 residents have been left without food, water, medicine, and basic services for weeks. Russian forces have prevented humanitarian access there, in breach of international humanitarian law. Moreover, Mariupol City Council announced yesterday that Russian mobile crematoriums have started working to destroy evidence of the Russian army's crimes in the city.

Dear colleagues,

According to Ukraine's juvenile prosecutor, as of yesterday, 167 children had been killed and 279 children had sustained injuries. Earlier, the United Nations Children's Fund noted that two million children had been forced to flee Ukraine, with more than 2.5 million children estimated to have been internally displaced. Regrettably, such large displacements will have lasting consequences for generations to come.

As highlighted at Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons this week, women and children fleeing the horrors of war are at heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia's actions in Ukraine are a manifest violation of the United Nations Charter and the international law principles, including those of international humanitarian law. We efforts with the international community to ensure that justice is served for the crimes that Russia is committing, through all available international legal mechanisms.

Georgia reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and for Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

While Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union, allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

At the outset, let me convey my deepest condolences to you personally, Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, and to the Ukrainian people, especially those who have lost loved ones and suffered gravely because of the horrific invasion and war brought about by President Putin, which enters its 43rd day today. We all grieve with you.

We also offer our sympathy to the many innocent Russian civilians who will continue to suffer because of their president's actions. Young men are being sacrificed.

Since the start of this unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful war, the position of Russian authorities has been that they are within their rights in invading a sovereign independent State. In this room, and elsewhere, we have again and again had to witness the malicious disinformation campaign conducted by Russia's representatives. We are constantly reminded of the cruel face of a war that is being systematically waged against civilians and civilian objects. And the devastating cruelty grows worse every week.

Let us not forget that this is a war of choice. This choice was made by President Putin in full knowledge of the contradictions between his choice on the one hand and international law and the United Nations Charter on the other.

Russia's military aggression has caused tragic loss of life, immense human suffering, the forced displacement of millions, and considerable environmental and cultural destruction. It has jeopardized the safety of nuclear power plants and undermined the security and stability of our region and of the wider world.

International humanitarian law and international human rights law constitute joint commitments and obligations and they exist for a reason, namely, to respect and protect the

sanctity of human life and dignity. And to pave a road to a sustainable future where peace and stability are preconditions. Where diplomacy prevails.

We regret that the Russian Federation has blatantly ignored the order of the International Court of Justice of 16 March and continues to ignore its obligations under international law. We must continue to urge the Russian Federation to refrain from further threats and aggression against Ukraine.

Iceland is a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and was among the 41 States Parties that referred the situation in Ukraine to the ICC. As such it fully supports the efforts of the ICC Prosecutor. Iceland was also among the 45 OSCE participating States that invoked the Moscow Mechanism. Violations of international law oblige the international community to call for accountability.

The international community will hold Russia accountable for breaches of commitments and war crimes.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Thank you.

While Norway aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, allow me also to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Firstly, I want to thank our Polish colleagues for the excellent way they are conducting the OSCE Chairmanship. Esteemed colleagues, you have Norway's full support in all your endeavours.

Secondly, I also want to thank other delegations in this room for putting the record straight on the events that have been taking place. For countering and exposing abhorrent Russian lies and telling the truth about the atrocities taking place in Ukraine. Atrocities committed by Russian military forces.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation's unprovoked and unlawful attack on Ukraine was and still is a war of choice. This choice was made by Russia in full knowledge of its violation of international law and of the catastrophic impact it was certain to have on Ukraine.

When you make a choice – when you wage a war of choice – you must be held accountable for the violations you commit and the ruthless choices you make.

On Tuesday, we commented on the atrocities committed in Bucha and other places while they were held by Russian forces. We fear that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg, and that further horrendous stories may surface.

Russia is systematically waging war against civilians and civilian objects, turning living and thriving cities into ruins. The responsibility for the death and destruction lies with the Russian authorities.

We call for accountability for all violations of international law. This includes holding accountable the perpetrators of the violations as well as the government officials and military

leaders responsible. We urge all participating States, in particular Russia, to make use of the tools at hand and to co-operate with the OSCE institutions in good faith.

Mr. Chairperson,

The situation in Mariupol is now beyond a humanitarian disaster. The city is almost levelled to the ground by brutal Russian bombardment. The members of the population still in the city are without food, water, electricity, medicines and other necessities. The situation for them is simply dire. People are dying. We urge Russia to immediately grant full, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian actors and assistance as well as protection and safe passage to allow civilians to leave all conflict-affected areas safely and voluntarily to a destination of their choice.

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday we attended a meeting hosted by Ukraine and Lithuania against the backdrop of Russia's numerous accusations about Ukraine preparing attacks with the use of chemical and biological weapons. These accusations have increased recently, as illustrated by, for example, yesterday's Arria-formula meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

Allegations of violations of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) are extremely serious and merit scrutiny. However, Russia has failed to offer any credible evidence for its accusations. On the contrary, it simply keeps making unsubstantiated claims and mere insinuations.

I would like to recall that the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has stated in the Security Council that "the United Nations is not aware of any biological weapons programmes in Ukraine". Furthermore, as we heard yesterday afternoon here at the Hofburg, Ukraine has, in co-operation with many different international partners, including the OSCE through the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, solidified its systems for chemical and biological safety and security.

Russia's accusations are yet another attempt at disinformation and a smokescreen to distract attention from their own bestial warfare.

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



1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL**

Mr. Chairperson,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Please allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

It is impossible to remain silent in the face of the atrocities committed by Russia against civilians in Ukraine following the military aggression launched by the Russian Federation, with the involvement of Belarus, against a peaceful, sovereign and independent neighbouring country.

The brutality of the reports and barbaric images received from Bucha, where over three hundred civilians are thought to have been executed following Russian occupation, is appalling. The continued Russian siege and indiscriminate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mariupol, Borodyanka, Kharkiv and so many other cities in Ukraine are shocking. For how much longer will Russia continue to deny these ongoing despicable acts?

Since the Russian invasion on 24 February over four million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their country as refugees. Addressing the needs of these people and mitigating the risks they are exposed to remains a task of the utmost importance and urgency, as already stated by the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We strongly condemn the Russian Federation's targeting and destruction of hospitals, medical facilities, schools, places of memory and worship, houses, shelters and other items of civilian infrastructure. It is unacceptable for Russia to have denied access for humanitarian aid and safe pathways through Ukraine.

Portugal fully supports the investigation launched by the International Criminal Court as well as the ongoing work by the Moscow Mechanism expert mission and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Evidence collected on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the course of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine will bring the perpetrators to justice.

Truth is often the first casualty of war. We reiterate the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media's call for the protection of journalists and their work as a matter of the highest priority. We recall that under international human rights and humanitarian law, States are obliged to respect and protect freedom of expression and to treat media workers as civilians.

At this grave hour, Portugal offers its condolences profound sorrow to all those who have lost nearest and dearest as a result of the ongoing Russian aggression. We reiterate our deep solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. You are not alone, and you will not be alone.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 13

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(a)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Today marks exactly eight years to the day since the Maidan revolutionaries who had seized power in Kyiv during the armed coup in February 2014 announced the start of a military campaign in Donbas to suppress dissent. They called the inhabitants of the south-east of the country who did not recognize the results of the coup d'état and who defended the Constitution of Ukraine at that time their ideological opponents. They labelled these people terrorists and launched a so-called anti-terrorist operation against them.

This operation was carried out by the intelligence services and armed forces of Ukraine and paramilitary units of Ukrainian nationalists and neo-Nazis. Over these eight years, they have committed a great number of war crimes in Donbas – indiscriminate shelling of residential areas, also with weapons prohibited under international law, illegal imprisonment, torture and extrajudicial killings of civilians. Many atrocities have been documented by international human rights organizations.

Members of the neo-Nazi Azov battalion, which, like many other such formations, was incorporated by the authorities into the system of government agencies and became a separate special purpose detachment within military unit 3057 of the Eastern Operational Territorial Command of the National Guard of Ukraine, took part in these crimes. Today, the remnants of the Azov battalion are still to be found in Mariupol, taking cover behind civilians being used as human shields.

We note that the problem of militarized neo-Nazism in Ukraine continues to be systematically hushed up in the West. Western leaders prefer not to hear even those rational voices that have something to say about the nature of the Azov battalion. We recall the joint letter from 40 members of the United States Congress who, in October 2019, appealed to the Department of State of the United States of America demanding that Azov be added to the list of terrorist organizations. However, instead, the US authorities preferred to send weapons to Ukraine that ended up in the hands of these neo-Nazis, and to carry out combat training activities with them directly and indirectly.

The problems of Ukrainian neo-Nazism were also highlighted by members of the French Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces who visited Ukraine at the end of May 2021. At the time, they noted that Nazi memorabilia and literature were being readily sold in the centre of Kyiv, and neo-Nazi parties and movements such as Azov were recruiting new supporters among young people and running military training courses. But the leadership of France, which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, has also failed to see the problem. Nor have they seen it in the United Kingdom, where, according to Home Secretary Priti Patel, they are very happy to welcome Ukrainian neo-Nazis, and in a number of other countries where supporters of Ukrainian far-right ideas feel very much at home. Did they not see or did they not want to see?

On 1 April, in an interview with Fox News, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, when asked by presenter Bret Baier about the atrocities committed by the Azov nationalist battalion against the civilian population, replied: “They are what they are.”

What is striking is the persistence with which Western countries continue to beef up Ukraine militarily in these conditions. The NATO Secretary General suggested preparing for a “protracted war”, while Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said on 6 April that it was not a swift end to the hostilities in Ukraine but their outcome that was more important. In fact, the EU chief diplomat has already admitted that Ukraine is just an instrument of confrontation with Russia. This is not about the interests of the Ukrainians themselves.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, high-precision weapons are being employed in the special operation against facilities used to provide military support to Ukrainian neo-Nazis. The civilian population and infrastructure are not targets. We would point out that, against this background, in Kyiv and in a number of Western capitals they are resorting to monstrous lies in order to discredit the actions of the Russian military. An example is the cynical provocation by Ukrainian neo-Nazis involving the deaths of civilians in Bucha, which was carried out with the full support of the Kyiv regime. It is further evidence of a genocide against one’s own people. We have reliable information that similar provocations are being prepared in the towns of Konotop and Trostyanets in the Sumy region and in Borodyanka and Katyuzhanka in the Kyiv region.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, Ukrainian nationalists have already carried out one such action in the village of Derhachi in the Kharkiv region: they first shelled this settlement and then videoed the destroyed buildings and, as they claimed, “numerous dead” for transmission to Western media. Representatives of Western news agencies took part in this action and it was overseen by military personnel from the 72nd Centre for Information and Psychological Operations of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The civilian participants in the staged filming were each paid 25 US dollars in cash.

We would warn you that the Russian Federation has a timely body of evidence on the latest terrible crimes being prepared by the Kyiv regime at the prompting of its foreign handlers and with their full approval. Evidently, with a view to carrying out these crimes, the Ukrainian Government has allowed members of the so-called territorial defence to use artillery and missile systems. However, a scenario like the one we saw in Bucha with unfounded accusations against the Russian armed forces will not work. In addition, we

should like to inform you that the Investigative Committee of Russia is already conducting a legal review of the dissemination of deliberately false information about the use of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, also with regard to the events in the town of Bucha in the Kyiv region.

The Kyiv regime has not stopped trying to slander the Russian armed forces in other ways as well. For example, on 5 April, as part of the preparations for its withdrawal from the city of Rubizhne, which is located on the territory of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) occupied by the Ukrainian armed forces, the Ukrainian military blew up a chemical tank in workshop No.1 at the Zarya plant. According to the information available, the explosion was deliberately timed to take into account the wind direction towards the settlement of Kudryashivka, which is controlled by LPR forces. We would remind you that, back in mid-March, the Russian Ministry of Defence warned that the nationalists were preparing provocations using toxic chemicals for which they would blame the Russian military. Not surprisingly, the head of the Ukrainian Government-controlled Luhansk administration, Serhii Haidai, immediately rushed to make the false accusation that the explosion was the result of a Russian strike. We should like to inform you that, on the instructions of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia, the circumstances of the explosion involving a chemical tank are being established.

In addition, there is reliable information about the Kyiv regime's preparations for a major provocation on the territory of the Khimprom production association in the city of Pervomaiskyi in the Kharkiv region. Ukrainian formations have mined a chlorine storage facility there containing 120 tonnes of the chemical. The plan is to blow up this storage facility and accuse Russia of allegedly causing a chemical disaster that resulted in the death of local residents.

Against this backdrop, it has been reliably established that Ukrainian armed formations are subjecting captured Russian military personnel to torture, violence and humiliation. They emulate the actions of the Nazi death squads during the Great Patriotic War with their inhumanity. What is more, they are actively disseminating such videos on the Internet and in the media. Nevertheless, these outrageous incidents go unnoticed by the OSCE leadership. Why is the Polish Chairmanship remaining silent on this matter?

Western countries are not only aware of the Ukrainian Government's gross violations of international humanitarian law but also seek to help the perpetrators avoid responsibility. We demand that representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross be granted immediate access to the captured Russian military personnel to establish the conditions of their detention and conduct thorough medical examinations.

As a result of the actions of the Kyiv regime, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine remains difficult. The Ukrainian Government still refuses to agree to humanitarian corridors for civilians to the Russian Federation – despite more than 2,738,000 appeals from Ukrainian residents who have expressed such a desire. Nevertheless, more than 620,000 people in total, over 122,000 of whom are children, have been evacuated to Russia since the start of the special military operation. Among those evacuated are 9,274 citizens from 45 foreign countries. Since 2 March, the Russian Federation has delivered more than 8,500 tonnes of humanitarian cargo to Ukraine and carried out at least 757 humanitarian actions.

The Russian special military operation now under way in Ukraine is intended not only to put an end to the protracted conflict in Donbas, the political settlement of which the OSCE has failed to achieve, but also to ensure that Ukrainian neo-Nazis cannot influence decision-making processes in the country. The main objectives of the special operation – demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine – will be met. Russia will continue to do its utmost to save civilian lives.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Ambassador Lukashevich this morning alternated between incredible claims that (a) Ukraine is attacking itself, and (b) that the gruesome photos of bodies and atrocities that we have all seen are all fabricated to incite Russophobia.

Earlier today I quoted a number of examples of lies that we have heard from the Russian delegation in recent months. Today, we have heard several more, which will also be documented in the OSCE record for future generations to see. Among all the problems that Russia has created for itself, credibility is undeniably a significant one.

The same problem applies to the Russian investigative committee, which has no credibility whatsoever. But as the war continues and as Russian atrocities are uncovered, the International Criminal Court is gathering evidence, following the largest referral in its history.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 15

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

Today we have again heard remarkable statements by the representative of the Russian Federation. And I have carefully noted the names of the places he mentioned. He repeatedly referred to alleged facts and announced evidence. I will not go into the nature of his presentation, but I should like to address the distorted definition of the term “truth” that Russia has presented here again today.

The reports and images that have reached us in recent days from Ukraine – from Bucha, Irpin and other towns – are testimony to an unimaginable violence unleashed against the Ukrainian civilian population. These atrocities are beyond comprehension and they allow us a glimpse into an abyss, an abyss in which the perpetrators – those on the ground and behind desks – have clearly lost any last shred of humanity and empathy.

Underpinning this brutal campaign by the Russian armed forces is a misanthropic ideology that is completely divorced from reality. We have heard this narrative again today from the representative of the Russian Federation: it is an attempt to use the unspeakable and absurd narrative of “denazification” to justify these heinous and atrocious acts.

This account is not only outrageous and tramples on the memory of all the victims of National Socialism. The Russian delegation’s attempts to deny these acts and blame them on the victim, Ukraine, are cynical and despicable. It is a transparent web of lies that can hardly be surpassed in brutality and repulsiveness.

There has been an analysis of satellite imagery recorded between 10 and 18 March 2022. The satellite images show that the victims on Yablunska Street in Bucha – this is the image we all saw – had already been lying there since at least 10 March. Credible evidence shows that Russian military and security forces were deployed in the area from 7 to 30 March, inclusive. They were also involved in interrogating prisoners who were subsequently executed. There are recorded telephone calls between members of the Russian armed forces in which they discuss the atrocities. Targeted killings by units of the Russian

military and security forces are thus evidence that the Russian Government has at least condoned human rights violations and war crimes to achieve its goals.

The statements made by the Russian side that these scenes were staged or that they were not responsible for the murders are not tenable. The perfidious web of lies that Russia has presented again today does not hold water. The truth will always come to light. And I am convinced that the Russian delegation knows this very well.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 16

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the Russian representative mentioned Germany, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

In Germany and throughout Europe, the plight of the Ukrainians has triggered an overwhelming wave of compassion and solidarity. This also included many Germans of Russian origin and Russians living in Germany. They do not want to put up with the Kremlin's bellicose politics. They know how to distinguish between the Russian Government and the Russian population. The majority of Germans know this.

There have been individual cases of indiscriminate criticism. There are fellow citizens who, out of consternation and compassion, have been unable to summon up the necessary capacity to discriminate. In those individual cases, the people involved have often subsequently reconsidered and reversed the opposition they had expressed in the heat of the moment. That is good and right. Because it is absolutely unacceptable for people from Russia to be insulted, abused or physically attacked in our country.

However, disinformation about alleged attacks on fellow citizens of Russian origin does not wash with the people in Germany. The video circulated on 20 March, in which a woman reports an alleged assault by Ukrainian refugees on a 16-year-old Russian boy in Euskirchen, for example, is not based on facts. The police in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community promptly took up the facts of the reported case, examined them and publicly clarified that no such incident had occurred.

The fact is that President Putin is responsible for the war in Ukraine. Putin has instigated and ordered the war and is conducting it with inhuman brutality. It is forbidden by the Russian Government to say this. It shies away from open debate with its own population. It persecutes dissenting Russians who demonstrate against the war or who simply call it what it is: a war.

President Putin describes the West as an enemy – and those who advocate good relations and peace in Europe as “national traitors”. It is this enemy image of the Russian

President that has plunged Europe into war. It is not the logic of Germany or Germans, and it is not the logic of Germans of Russian origin or of Russians living in Germany.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1367
7 April 2022
Annex 17

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Since my country has been mentioned by the representative of the Russian Federation, I would like to exercise my right of reply.

Firstly, finally I don't have to debunk any allegations against Latvia because now everyone sees how groundless they have been the whole time. And for this reason I won't debunk any allegations against Latvia for a very long time now.

When the last Russian war criminal has been sentenced, then we will be able to engage in discussions with Russia about human rights in other countries once again.

Secondly, the Russian language is not Russian property.

Nor are people speaking Russian.

Thirdly, while we are stopping Russian propaganda and disinformation, Russia is stopping Ukrainian heartbeats, including the heartbeats of journalists.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask that this statement in right of reply be attached to the journal of the day.

1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 3 April, Serbia held a regular presidential election, early parliamentary elections, and local elections in Belgrade and for 13 other local governments. Over 6.5 million citizens were eligible to cast their vote in the presidential and early parliamentary elections.

For the first time ever, Kosovo Serbs were deprived of their right to vote in elections in their local communities. We recognize the efforts of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union to enable the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to conduct the collection of votes in accordance with the long-standing practice. Regrettably, Priština rejected all these proposals. Unable to exercise their rights in their places of residence, a number of Kosovo Serbs cast their ballots in four municipalities in central Serbia – Bujanovac, Raška, Kuršumlija and Tutin. However not all Kosovo Serbs, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, were able to do so.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me recall that United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) entrusted the international civilian presence in Kosovo and Metohija with the task of “organizing and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self-government pending a political settlement, including the holding of elections” (point 11.C).

OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999 established that the OSCE Mission in Kosovo was to take the lead role in matters relating to institution- and democracy-building and human rights. The decision defines the OSCE Mission in Kosovo’s scope of work precisely and states that the Mission is to concentrate its work in, among other areas, “organization and supervision of elections” (point 3).

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me also to quote the joint statement of 23 March 2022 of the Governments of the United States of America and France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom: “While we appreciate Serbia’s availability to find a solution, it is with great disappointment that we take note of the Kosovo Government’s decision to reject a constructive proposal presented by

the Quint. With this decision, Kosovo's Government failed to demonstrate its commitment to the principle of protecting the civil and political rights of all its citizens, including members of minority groups. Such an attitude of the Kosovo Government is not in line with our values and principles and will undermine their European aspirations."

Similarly, the European Commission spokesperson Peter Stano stated: "The EU has acted as a facilitator. ... We have tried to find practical solutions using the analogies that were applied in the past elections," said Stano, and added: "While acknowledging that Serbia has been open to finding a solution, we regret that the consensus between the parties was not finally reached after Kosovo's decision to reject Quint's constructive proposal."

Although these statements are welcome, they have proved insufficient. The decision not to allow the voting to take place is yet another unilateral act taken by Priština. It is a consequence of the act of secession undertaken in 2008 with the endorsement of a number of countries. This latest move, to forbid voting, is yet further proof that Priština's unilateral decisions appear to be acceptable while, at the same time, Serbia's commitment to the dialogue is not properly recognized.

Therefore, we call upon all those committed to security and stability in this part of Europe to respond firmly to Priština's destructive course and put an end to the practice of creating tensions and exacerbating divisions between communities. As we reiterated in the Permanent Council on 20 January 2022, appropriate targeted measures against stakeholders in Priština who are exacerbating divisions, deepening mistrust between communities and eroding stability are long overdue. This is the only course to reverse further deterioration of regional stability and to end Priština's arbitrariness and unpredictability.

Although Priština's latest actions violated basic rights of Kosovo Serbs, Belgrade, as a responsible and reliable partner, has not taken any countermeasures, seeking to preserve peace and security in the region. We continue to urge Priština to meaningfully engage in the EU-facilitated dialogue and implement obligations stemming from the 2013 Brussels Agreement. A mutually agreed and therefore sustainable solution can only be reached through dialogue and compromise and not through a *fait accompli*.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1367
7 April 2022
Annex 19

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Albania attaches high importance to the right of minorities to vote, in respect of the spirit and letter of international standard and practice. We welcome and support the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the practical steps towards the normalization of relations between the two countries.

We believe, however, that it is for the Republic of Kosovo to decide how elections of another country are handled on Kosovo's own territory. We respect and support the rule of law in Kosovo and likewise respect and support Kosovo's legitimate right to exercise its sovereignty throughout the country's territory.

We welcome the steps undertaken by the institutions of Kosovo to facilitate the voting of Kosovo Serbs with dual citizenship in Serbia's elections of 3 April 2022. The Kosovo police deployed a large presence along the routes to ensure that voters could travel to Serbia without problems, as reported by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Police also deployed additional staff at border crossing points to expedite crossing procedures.

We appreciate the attention given to this matter by Kosovo's international allies and partners. A principled and equal approach towards all six countries of the Western Balkans is key to the preservation of peace and stability and to the promotion of the Euro-Atlantic integration processes.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is with special attention and concern that we have followed the systematic removal – or passivation – of the addresses of Albanians in Medvegja, Bujanoc and Preshevo from Serbia's records since 2011. It is believed that over 6,000 eligible Albanian voters have been disenfranchised owing to this discriminatory policy. In June 2021, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia called it “a form of ethnic cleansing through administrative means”.

We note that the European Parliament's Rapporteur for Kosovo, Viola von Cramon, has asked that the issue be included in the preliminary report of the Election Observation Mission, and also in the statement of the European Parliament.

Moreover, according to numerous reports, many Albanians of the Preshevo Valley currently living outside Serbia were left waiting for hours at the border and thus prevented from voting. We call on the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities to continue to follow these matters closely.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 20

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

For months in the run-up to the elections in Serbia on 3 April, Germany and its partners held intensive consultations with the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia to find a pragmatic solution that would have allowed eligible citizens in Kosovo to exercise their right to vote in the elections.

It is clear that it is the prerogative of the Kosovo Government to decide whether or not to provide support related to the voting process in another country's elections. We noted with disappointment that it decided against a compromise regarding the conduct of elections for eligible voters in Kosovo by the OSCE. Germany, along with France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, has also publicly expressed its views on this matter.

Eligible voters living in Kosovo were able to cast their vote in polling stations set up for them in the municipalities of Tutin, Raška, Kuršumlija and Bujanovac in southern Serbia. Border traffic for approximately 15,000 voters, most of whom crossed the border by bus, was trouble-free. We welcome the efforts of both sides to comply with the arrangements for the smooth handling of border traffic, and we thank the OSCE for its willingness to assist on this issue.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 21

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

France congratulates the election observation mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for its professionalism and independence in line with its methodology during the Serbian presidential and early parliamentary elections of 3 April 2022. In the light of its interim report and preliminary conclusions, we welcome the broad respect for fundamental freedoms during these elections, which notably resulted in greater pluralism in the composition of the Parliament, but note with regret that a number of shortcomings, particularly related to media pluralism and campaign financing, would have led to unequal conditions for the candidates.

Over the past few months, France, along with its partners in the Quint – Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America – had been deeply engaged with the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia to find a pragmatic solution that would allow those Kosovo citizens who are entitled to do so to exercise their right to participate in the Serbian elections on 3 April 2022.

While we recognize that the decision whether or not to allow the facilitation of voting in elections organized by another country is a sovereign prerogative, France regrets the Kosovo Government's decision to reject the compromise proposal presented by the European Union Special Representative. France nonetheless welcomes the fact that the Kosovo authorities made it easier for Kosovo Serb voters to cross the border.

We call on the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia to continue their discussions in a constructive manner and in a spirit of compromise with a view to finding a comprehensive solution to their dispute, on the basis of the agreements already reached in the course of the European Union-facilitated Belgrade-Priština dialogue. It is important to avoid any unilateral action that could weaken the dialogue between the two countries and to ensure that the rights of persons belonging to minorities are respected.

The next few weeks will be a moment of truth for the Belgrade-Priština dialogue, and it is up to both parties to demonstrate commitment and political will to make progress towards a comprehensive agreement.

I would be grateful if you could attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 22

Original: ENGLISH

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 4(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

The European Union thanks the Polish Chairmanship and the chairpersons of the Security, Economic and Environmental and Human Dimension Committees for their updates. We commend your inclusive and consultative approach and look forward to the resumption of the Committees' work. But let us reiterate: this is not a time for business as usual. In the face of Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and its people, the important work of the OSCE should continue but it should refocus, as a matter of priority, on addressing and alleviating the devastating impact of this war across all three OSCE dimensions of security.

In this vein, we support the Security Committee chairperson's intention to resume the work of the Committee, while adapting its work plan to the ongoing appalling developments, including the focus of the next Security Committee meeting on critical infrastructure protection and resilience.

We also support the decision to adapt the work plan and to discuss the environmental degradation and infrastructure damage, caused by Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, in the next Economic and Environmental Committee meeting.

Equally, we welcome the focus on addressing the impact of this war on children and youth in the next Human Dimension Committee meeting.

In conclusion, the European Union expresses full support to the Polish Chairmanship and the chairpersons of the three Committees and their teams, and thanks them for their leadership. We look forward to actively support and contribute to the Committees' work in the coming period.



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

PC.JOUR/1367

7 April 2022

Annex 23

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1367th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1367, Agenda item 4(e)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to point out straight away that, irrespective of the political processes or any other processes taking place in the OSCE area, it is the responsibility of any Chairmanship – and Poland is no exception here – to ensure our Organization’s operational work in the three dimensions, that is, in all those areas in which both the Chairmanship and the Secretariat are mandated to perform some kind of activity.

In February this year, the arbitrary decision taken by the Polish Chairmanship completely paralysed the work of the main areas of the OSCE – in the non-military aspects of security and in the economic and environmental and human dimensions. Even though the Porto Ministerial Council decision of 2002, familiar to us all and we will keep coming back to it one way or another, states that the Chairmanship is obliged to consult with the participating States on building a working process.

As far as we understand, without any consultation, again by an arbitrary decision of the Chairmanship and clearly in agreement with the heads of the relevant committees, a decision was taken to dedicate the OSCE’s subsequent activities after the Easter break exclusively to one subject – Ukraine – and to extend it to all the structures of our Organization without exception to the detriment of dozens of States that are an integral part of the OSCE and that, I am convinced, are also interested in considering numerous other topics in all three dimensions. One should not think that the subject of Ukraine completely overshadows the political processes and other processes currently taking place in the European Union, the United States of America, Canada and elsewhere. One should not try to use what is happening in Ukraine as a shield against criticism of these processes. We categorically object to this approach. We do not believe it will strengthen our Organization, which already suffers from political bias. We shall see where this course of events leads by the end of this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

You have very grossly misrepresented the nature of the consultations that you have with the Russian side – it takes place in a completely different format than it does with other

participating States. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the Porto decision of 2002, the Chairmanship shall conduct consultations with the participating States as transparently as possible and not on an individual basis. This had been the case throughout the years of the CSCE, and such a provision is enshrined in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. This is how the Organization has worked over the past decades, and you have no right, as Chairperson of the Permanent Council and representative of the Chairmanship, to change the modus operandi of our collective action. Once again, I remind you that your mandate was set out in a ministerial decision in 2002. I will read it to you again. I am ready to discuss this topic as long as necessary, because it is the participating States, not the Chairmanship, who have the final say. Again, I remind you of the Porto decision of 2002:

“Ensuring that its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account”.

In other words, the agreed positions of the participating States, together with the decisions of ministerial meetings and summits, form the basis of the Chairmanships' work. This is an axiom that is fundamental to the activities of our Organization. You do not have the authority to decide to restructure the programme for this year, especially since the consultations that were held with the heads of the committees in February, and even in January, in addition to the negotiations conducted by the Chairperson-in-Office, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, in Moscow in February of this year, outlined a completely different programme. That programme is set out in the Chairmanship's calendar.

We insist that your actions must be consistent with collective decisions. No Ministerial Council or Permanent Council decisions have been adopted on restructuring the work of the Organization in response to the so-called events in Ukraine. Arbitrariness by the Chairmanship has no place in our Organization. I say this to you, with a full sense of responsibility, in the presence of the heads of the committees, with whom we have personally held more than one round of discussions to develop a programme of work for this year, at least for the coming months. Your decisions have no place in that programme. You cannot change the agendas of the committees yourself because these committees are accountable to the Permanent Council. The Permanent Council has not adopted any decisions about restructuring the committee's work, and this is also an axiom that comes from the decisions of the collective bodies, not the Chairmanship.

I thank you for your attention and request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.