
Chairmanship: Malta**1503rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. **Date:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Closed: 1 p.m.

2. **Chairperson:** Ambassador N. Meli Daudey
Ms. E. Abela-Hampel
Ms. D. Borg
Mr. T. Attard
Ms. G. Saydon
Mr. M. Cluett
Mr. A. Sant Fournier

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Z. Kiziltan, to the Permanent Council.

The Chairperson informed the Council that the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, H.E. Mr. I. Cassis, had, in a letter to the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, H.E. Dr. I. Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta, dated 18 December 2024, confirmed Switzerland's readiness to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2026 (CIO.GAL/94/24 Restr.).

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex)

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

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

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1497/24), United States of America (PC.DEL/1482/24), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North

Macedonia and Ukraine; the European Free Trade Association countries
Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area;
as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino in alignment)
(PC.DEL/1491/24), United Kingdom, Canada (PC.DEL/1483/24), Türkiye
(PC.DEL/1494/24 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1490/24 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE 2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL
EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1494 (PC.DEC/1494)
on the 2024 Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization, the text of
which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the
decision), Hungary (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark,
Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia,
Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands,
North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia,
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine) (interpretative statement, see
attachment 2 to the decision), United Kingdom (also on behalf of the United
States of America) (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision),
Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision),
United States of America, Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 5
to the decision), Azerbaijan (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the
decision)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1495 (PC.DEC/1495)
on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and
Herzegovina, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1496 (PC.DEC/1496)
on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the text
of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1497 (PC.DEC/1497) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1498 (PC.DEC/1498) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 7: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1499 (PC.DEC/1499) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1500 (PC.DEC/1500) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 9: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1501 (PC.DEC/1501) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 10: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1502 (PC.DEC/1502) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 11: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1503 (PC.DEC/1503) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 12: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1504 (PC.DEC/1504) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Moldova (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and Monaco, in alignment) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), United Kingdom (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 5 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 6 to the decision), Switzerland (interpretative statement, see attachment 7 to the decision)

Agenda item 13: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in yet more confrontation in and around Ukraine:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1485/24)
- (b) *Human rights situation in Georgia:* Netherlands (also on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (PC.DEL/1487/24 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1495/24 OSCE+)
- (c) *Minsk International Conference on Combating Illegal Migration, held in Minsk on 15 November 2024:* Belarus (PC.DEL/1493/24 OSCE+), Hungary-European Union, Poland

Agenda item 14: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

None

Agenda item 15: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Facilitation by the Conflict Prevention Centre of a crisis simulation exercise for the incoming Finnish OSCE Chairmanship: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/112/24 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Regional workshop, organized by the OSCE in partnership with Meta/Facebook on “The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization”, held in Tashkent on 16 December 2024: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/112/24 OSCE+)*
- (c) *Workshop organized by the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to support anti-trafficking mechanisms amid mass migration flows caused by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, held in Madrid on 12 December 2024: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/112/24 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Adoption of a Permanent Council decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization and the current financial situation at the OSCE: Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General (SEC.GAL/112/24 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Expression of gratitude to Malta for assuming the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2024: United States of America (PC.DEL/1486/24)*
- (b) *Farewell statement by the OSCE Chairmanship of Malta: Chairperson, Finland*

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/1503
19 December 2024
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Point 2

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

Madam Chairperson,

It is disappointing that, throughout the year, the Chairmanship has demonstratively violated the rules of our Organization and arbitrarily organized discussions of the Ukraine topic at an OSCE decision-making body. And today's meeting was no exception. The persistent inclusion of a contentious separate item on "Russian aggression against Ukraine" in the Permanent Council's agenda is quite unacceptable. Such actions are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)) and must stop. The agenda circulated by the Chairmanship for today's meeting has an overtly confrontational thrust as regards the Ukraine issue and does not give all participating States the opportunity to take part on an equal, non-discriminatory basis in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE by involving consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

This is clearly an abuse of authority by the Chairmanship, which is obliged to act for all 57 participating States and not for a group of countries that are aggressively imposing their views on everyone else.

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.



1503rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1494
2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE
AUTHORIZATION**

The Permanent Council,

Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations,

Reiterating the importance of full transparency and accountability in the functioning of the OSCE,

Acknowledging that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities and noting the need to continue some of these discussions,

Reiterating the importance of Permanent Council Decisions No. 486 of 28 June 2002 and No. 553 of 27 June 2003,

Acknowledging that the discussions on the 2024 Unified Budget are still ongoing, without prejudice to the outcome of these discussions,

Further acknowledging that the discussions on the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, distributed on 2 July 2024 under PC.ACMF/21/24, are still ongoing in the ACMF, and given that this document is subject to agreement by the Permanent Council,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.04 – Provisional Expenditure Authorization,

Recalling Financial Regulation 3.01(b) – with reference to the authority of the Permanent Council to take decisions on all elements of the budget,

Takes note of the OSCE 2024 Year-End Financial Forecast (document PC.ACMF/71/24 of 12 December 2024);

1. Approves the additional provisional expenditure authorization of 578,100 euros, on an exceptional basis, in order to meet the anticipated financing requirements as set forth in the annex;

2. Determines that this additional provisional expenditure authorization shall be financed from the cash surplus reported in the 2023 Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

Fund	Provisional Expenditure Authorization Financial Regulation 3.04*	Transfers Financial Regulation 3.02**	Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Forecast Expenditure 2024	Estimated Year-End Balance	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization
	A	B	C=A+B	D	E=C-D	F	G=C+F
<u>The Secretariat</u>							
Secretary General and Central Services							
Executive Management	1,190,500	26,500	1,217,000	1,258,100	-41,100	41,100	1,258,100
Security Management	636,500	-	636,500	649,400	-12,900	12,900	649,400
External Co-operation	653,700	-	653,700	721,800	-68,100	68,100	721,800
The OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague	640,100	-	640,100	664,600	-24,500	24,500	664,600
Gender Issues	437,100	-	437,100	462,900	-25,800	25,800	462,900
Internal Oversight							
Internal Oversight	1,828,900	-	1,828,900	1,901,800	-72,900	72,900	1,901,800
Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings							
Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings	1,073,700	-	1,073,700	1,131,800	-58,100	58,100	1,131,800

2024 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION (CONTINUED)

Fund	Provisional Expenditure Authorization Financial Regulation 3.04*	Transfers Financial Regulation 3.02**	Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Forecast Expenditure 2024	Estimated Year-End Balance	Additional Provisional Expenditure Authorization	Total Revised Provisional Expenditure Authorization
	A	B	C=A+B	D	E=C-D	F	G=C+F
<u>High Commissioner on National Minorities</u>							
Office of the High Commissioner	2,959,300	11,000	2,970,300	3,009,100	-38,800	38,800	3,009,100
<u>Mission in Kosovo</u>							
Office of Head of Mission	2,750,300	20,000	2,770,300	2,930,900	-160,600	160,600	2,930,900
Fund Administration Unit	5,495,100	35,000	5,530,100	5,605,400	-75,300	75,300	5,605,400
TOTAL ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION						578,100	

*Reflects provisional expenditure authorization until the end of 2024.

**Reflects transfers planned until the end of 2024.

PC.DEC/1494
19 December 2024
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of Canada:

“Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the decision just adopted on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada supports, on an exceptional basis, the allocation of 578,100 euros from the 2023 cash surplus to cover the remaining deficit for 2024. Support for this decision is in the best interest of the Organization. However, as a more sustainable solution, participating States should agree to a Unified Budget as a matter of urgency and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

We emphasize that the piecemeal approach of allocating resources is bad financial management practice, is neither sustainable nor desirable, and should not become our *modus operandi*. All executive structures of the Organization are essential and must be adequately resourced. In this context, we look forward to forthcoming discussions on the Unified Budget for 2025 and other financial and administrative issues and strongly encourage all participating States to engage in these discussions with good faith and in the interest of all.

We want to acknowledge the difficult situation that the lack of a Unified Budget creates for the well-being of OSCE staff, who are vital to all functions of the Organization. We thank them for their dedication and professionalism.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1494
19 December 2024
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

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

By the delegation of Hungary (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden):

“The Member States of the European Union welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council decision granting an authorization of additional expenditure.

This decision will make it possible to meet legally binding commitments, mainly staff costs, and to avoid deficits in three departments of the Secretariat, in the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and in the OSCE’s field operation in Kosovo. These forecast deficits are caused by the lack of a Unified Budget and adequate resource allocations.

The Member States of the European Union, together accounting for almost 60 per cent of the OSCE budget, note with concern the deterioration in the Organization’s financial situation, which is now affecting its ability to honour its legally binding commitments.

We are aware of the efforts at saving made by the various structures, including sometimes drastic cost-cutting measures. Despite these efforts, we deeply regret that the level of funding shortfalls anticipated at the end of the year remains so worrying.

More generally, we call upon all participating States to act consistently with their commitments and to provide the Organization with adequate means for implementing these, so as to allow the OSCE to function effectively in its three dimensions and in all its structures – the Secretariat, the autonomous institutions and the field operations.

Moreover, the EU Member States greatly regret that it was not possible to adopt the Unified Budget proposed by the Maltese Chairmanship for 2024, despite its tireless efforts, notably during the Ministerial Council meeting. We deplore the refusal of one delegation to join the consensus on adopting this budget, despite the various proposed compromises drafted by the Chairmanship.

We take this opportunity to call for the adoption as soon as possible of the respective decisions on the 2023 and 2022 Financial Statements. These decisions are of a technical nature. The lack of such decisions harms the interests of all the participating States and creates an additional burden for the Secretariat.

In closing, we warmly thank the Maltese Chairmanship for all of the work it has carried out in the course of this year to enable the Organization to keep functioning, including its prioritization of the issue of deficits.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.”

PC.DEC/1494
19 December 2024
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of the United Kingdom (also on behalf of the United States of America):

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the additional provisional expenditure authorization, the United Kingdom and the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

As stated on numerous occasions, we would like to underline the importance of all parts of the OSCE being adequately financed to fulfil their mandates. Addressing the forecast deficits in the 2024 budget is an incredibly urgent issue for the Organization, and it was critical a decision was approved today.

We welcome that participating States have allowed this draft decision to pass, which will – right at the last moment – avoid the Organization falling into deficit in 2024 for the first time in its history. We deeply regret that one participating State chose to block agreement of the 2024 Unified Budget despite the considerable efforts made by the Chairmanship to reach consensus. We hope that the constructive spirit shown in agreeing to this expenditure authorization can be carried forward to future discussions on the 2025 Unified Budget and other financial issues.

The United Kingdom and the United States once again warmly thank the Maltese and Finnish delegations and the Department of Management and Finance for their tireless efforts in attempting to resolve the budget issues facing the Organization.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”

PC.DEC/1494
19 December 2024
Attachment 4

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

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

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization, the Russian Federation notes the following.

A significant part of the funding shortfall presented by the Mission in Kosovo covers the salaries of locally recruited staff and is not related to the OSCE’s contractual obligations. Expenditures of that kind must be met exclusively from the Organization’s Unified Budget, and extraordinary funding mechanisms, such as the use of cash surpluses, are not applicable to them.

The very notion of handing out an additional monetary incentive to the staff of the Mission in Kosovo in the present climate of crisis – and also when set against the decision by other field operations to withdraw their requests for their own funding shortfalls to be covered – seems inappropriate.

Having granted in their entirety the funds requested by the Mission in Kosovo, we trust that the decision adopted today does not set a precedent for the future. The absence of objections on the part of the Russian Federation to this decision is meant to help the new OSCE Secretary General not to find himself in a difficult situation in his first days on the job, and to avoid the adoption of so-called administrative decisions that would not only look dubious from a legal point of view but would also be contrary to the principles of budgetary discipline and to generally accepted practice in financial stewardship.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of this Permanent Council meeting.

Thank you for your attention.”

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

By the delegation of Armenia:

“In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization, the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Armenia joins the consensus noting the efforts by the Chairmanship to address the urgent need for additional provisional expenditure authorization for the Secretariat, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Mission in Kosovo.

We note that the decision contains certain formulations that are redundant and do not serve the purpose of this decision. However, for the sake of compromise, we join the consensus in order to secure the required financing.

We expect that these OSCE structures will operate strictly in compliance with the OSCE documents and decisions in carrying out their programmatic activities and will adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability in a non-politicized and inclusive manner.

At the same time, we emphasize that Armenia joins the consensus on this decision on an exceptional basis, amidst the absence of the approved Unified Budget. It is regrettable that the adoption of the Unified Budget of the OSCE remains blocked, due to repetitive, unsubstantiated and unrelated demands.

Armenia supports the adoption of the Unified Budget based on OSCE working methods, commitments and decisions, including those that were taken at the highest level.

Armenia has continuously demonstrated its full determination and commitment in this regard, including by recently supporting the draft decision on the Unified Budget distributed and discussed in the margins of the Ministerial Council in Malta.

We also believe that the Minsk Process, the High-Level Planning Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference should remain in place until an agreement on peace and normalization of interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan is achieved. Armenia is convinced that such an agreement is within reach.

Armenia requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the adopted decision and to the journal of the day.”

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

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“In connection with the decision on the 2024 additional provisional expenditure authorization adopted by the Permanent Council, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to make the following interpretative statement for the record.

The delegation of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on this decision on the basis of the understanding that there is no agreement on the 2024 Unified Budget, as reflected in this decision of the Permanent Council, and that this decision is adopted on an exceptional basis.

Furthermore, this decision acknowledges explicitly that agreement could not yet be found on all programmatic activities, which includes the former so-called Minsk Process, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and the High-Level Planning Group.

The delegation of Azerbaijan reiterates its support for the early adoption of the Unified Budget, which would allocate the scarce financial resources of the OSCE where they are needed the most to fund the programmatic activities that are relevant and around which there is consensus.

The financial regulations and the relevant financial decisions do not envisage allocating funds for dysfunctional programmes. This runs counter to Permanent Council Decisions No. 553 and No. 486 on the Unified Budget process and the relevant financial regulations that establish the overall objective of the budget process to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in the budget expenditures.

In this regard, dysfunctional, obsolete and irrelevant structures of the former Minsk Process referred to above, the programmatic activities of which are not agreed upon, must be removed from the budget. This will ensure that the Organization remains relevant and agile and continues to deliver. The remaining of these structures on the books undermines the functionality of the Organization.

We reiterate our call to the Chairmanship and the Secretariat to expeditiously prepare a plan that defines the main parameters and determines the tasks, timelines and administrative arrangements to enable the closure of the structures related to the former Minsk Process. To this end, we expect that the Secretariat will provide information on a cost estimation for the closure of these structures and, in particular, what is the corresponding cost that needs to be

allocated in the 2025 Unified Budget for the management of human resources, assets, premises, budget and finance, and archives related to the closure of the dysfunctional structures related to the former Minsk Process.

This will ensure the collective support of all participating States for the timely adoption of the Unified Budget; will restore the functionality of the Organization and will put the financing of the Organization on a sustainable path.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the Permanent Council decision and to the journal of the day.”



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

PC.DEC/1495
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1495
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina until 31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1496
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 1496
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1497
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 1497
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Serbia until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1498
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 1498
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1499
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 1499
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Skopje until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1500
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 1500
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan until 31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1501
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 9

**DECISION No. 1501
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1502
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 10

**DECISION No. 1502
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1503
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 11

**DECISION No. 1503
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN DUSHANBE**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe until
31 December 2025.



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

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

1503rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1503, Agenda item 12

**DECISION No. 1504
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until 30 June 2025.

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of Moldova:

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova just adopted, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The Republic of Moldova deeply regrets that it was not possible to extend again only for the OSCE Mission to Moldova the mandate for one year due to the disagreement of one participating State.

OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 states that the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs. And it should not be for any other OSCE participating State to impose an alternative period.

Moldova, as the host country, reaffirms its strong support for the Mission’s work and values its critical contribution to the conflict mediation.

At the same time, we would like to underline yet again our concerns that six-month extensions do not allow proper planning of the Mission’s activities and continue to represent a heavy administrative burden. We do not see any reason to hinder the functioning of the Mission by reducing the duration of its legitimate mandate.

We call on the Russian Federation to reassess/review its position with regards to the renewal of the Mission’s mandate in the future, in order to avoid further constraints and bring the Mission’s mandate in line with the yearly OSCE cycle, in accordance with the relevant Ministerial Council decision.

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

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

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

“In connection with the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure:

The European Union deeply deplores once again the isolated and unsubstantiated position of the Russian Federation to arbitrarily limit the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to six months instead of one year, which is the rule we collectively subscribed to and reconfirmed in 2006 at the ministerial level. Indeed, the Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 reaffirmed unequivocally that the mandate for field operations should be of a one-year duration when the participating State hosting the field operation concurs. We continue to believe that a six-month extension represents a very heavy administrative burden for the Mission and we do not see any reason to render the functioning of the Mission even more challenging in the current very difficult circumstances, when the Republic of Moldova continues to face the consequences of Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

We remind the Russian Federation of its commitment, made at the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit, to completely and unconditionally withdraw its military forces and equipment stationed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova without its consent. We also recall the international commitments of the Russian Federation to destroy the ammunition stockpiles at the Cobasna depot. The OSCE has the mandate and means to ensure the safety, transparency, and international verification of such operations.

We commend the Head of Mission and her dedicated team for the outstanding work they carry out to implement the mandate of the Mission, which has continued in spite of the present challenging circumstances. We recall our strong support for the Mission’s work in facilitating engagement and regular dialogue between the sides in the context of achieving a lasting comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria.

It is essential that the Mission continues to monitor the situation in the Security Zone and on the border with Ukraine, reporting promptly on any incidents occurring there. We

reiterate our appeal for strict adherence to the rules established by the Joint Control Commission in the Security Zone and emphasize the importance of respecting the Mission's mandate and ensuring the free movement of its members.

Having in mind the importance of allowing the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue its invaluable work, and taking into account the position of the host country, the European Union has decided to join the consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

We call on Russia to reconsider its position in order to allow for a resumption of a one-year extension of the Mission's mandate, as per the established rule it agreed upon at ministerial level during the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in 2006.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today's meeting.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹, Albania¹, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, and Georgia, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.”

1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of Canada:

“Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the decision of the Permanent Council on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Canada regrets that one participating State has blocked consensus on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term. We have joined consensus on this irregular six-month extension, but are disappointed the Russian Federation has once again groundlessly and recklessly prioritized its narrow national interest to undermine the efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization, and broader European security.

Canada continues to strongly support the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We sincerely hope the Russian Federation does not plan to continue this disruptive path with regards to the renewal of the Mission’s mandate and that the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova will be renewed for the regular one-year term in June 2025. This would not only be in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 but also with the wishes of the host country.

Canada greatly values the role the OSCE field mission plays to support Moldova in addressing the challenges and security risks it faces.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision.

Thank you.”

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of the United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

We are deeply disappointed that the Russian Federation today continues not to allow the full 12-month extension that Moldova has called for and that the Mission, its staff and the people of Moldova deserve. This disruptive tactic is part of a pattern of behaviour in which Russia continues to make it difficult for the OSCE to carry out the work it is mandated to do. We call on the Russian Federation to cease playing games with the Mission’s mandate, reconsider its position and return to full 12-month mandate renewals.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be attached to the decision as adopted and to the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024
Attachment 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

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

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova until 30 June 2025, the Russian Federation notes the following.

Cause for deep concern is given by the ongoing stagnation in the political process for a Transdnestrian settlement, the absence of efforts to make use of the tried-and-tested negotiation mechanisms, primarily the key ‘5+2’ format, and the deteriorating human rights situation in the Republic of Moldova, in particular with regard to freedom of the media and guaranteeing the rights of national minorities.

We expect the Mission to closely monitor the Republic of Moldova’s compliance with its OSCE commitments, document its findings in regular reports, work with the Moldovan authorities in a targeted manner to put things right, and step up its efforts to revitalize the political process for a Transdnestrian settlement.

The Russian Federation takes the position that without tangible progress in these areas the Mission’s mandate will be regarded as unfulfilled, and the field operation will have to be wound up.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.”

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

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the United States makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States values the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. Although the formal settlement process is on hold, the Mission continues to play a key role in facilitating dialogue between the sides and in helping Moldova strengthen its democracy in line with its chosen European path.

We again express our disappointment that the Russian delegation was unable to join consensus on extending the mandate of the Mission for a full year. The United States recalls Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and reminds Russia of its commitment to that decision and to the principle that ‘when the participating State hosting a field operation concurs, the mandate for field operations should be of a one year duration.’

Russia’s refusal to respect that commitment can be seen only as a deliberate attempt to undermine the work of this Organization and its field missions.

Russia’s procedural theatrics will not draw our attention from its unlawful use of force against, and blatant violation of, the territorial integrity of Ukraine and Georgia, which violate international law and directly contravene Helsinki Final Act principles. Russia’s continued stationing of forces in Moldova without Moldova’s consent is a further contravention of its commitments.

Sadly, the people of Moldova and the Mission’s staff bear the brunt of Russia’s failure to agree to a full year mandate extension. The United States rejects any notion this six-month extension will set a precedent for future mandates. Per Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, the Mission’s mandate should be brought in line with the yearly OSCE cycle.

The OSCE Mission to Moldova's work to facilitate a lasting and comprehensive settlement process is indispensable. We support Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and a comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict with a special status for Transnistria. Our support for Moldova on its chosen path towards rule of law reform and further European integration is unwavering.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson."

PC.DEC/1504
19 December 2024
Attachment 7

Original: ENGLISH

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

By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Switzerland would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Switzerland regrets that one single participating State does not allow the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for the regular one-year term.

We would like to recall our strong support for the Mission’s work and express our gratitude for its valuable efforts on the ground. It is imperative that the team can keep up its work without additional budgetary or administrative difficulties.

Taking into account the position of the host country, Switzerland decided to join consensus to extend the mandate by six months.

However, we call on Russia to reconsider its decision and to abide by OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06, which clearly states that the mandate of field operations should be of a one-year duration when the host country of the field operation agrees.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of today’s meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”