

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/697/22
13 May 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1373rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 May 2022

On the closure of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,

We take note of the report on the winding up of the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). We welcome the Secretariat's intention to ensure a swift and cost-efficient liquidation of the Mission.

At the same time, we are once again obliged to note that the decision to delay the start of the closure process by four weeks was irregular and wrong. It led to significant and unjustified overspending of the OSCE's budgetary resources. In particular, this was due to the SMM monitors and other international staff of the Mission having been put on special leave with pay, even though they could no longer perform any functions, there being no mandate. It also has to do with the contracts of the Mission's contractors and lessors having been extended: during four weeks in April they received money for their services. However, if the winding-up procedure had begun at the proper time, the Organization would not have incurred those expenses.

In this regard, we once again request the Secretary General to provide detailed information on the expenditure arising from the remuneration of SMM international staff on special leave and from payment of the services of the Mission's suppliers and lessors from 1 to 28 April of this year. Participating States are entitled to know the level of financial resources wasted.

We should also like to look into the role assigned to the Permanent Council in the SMM closure process. As far as we are aware, in the OSCE's work it is the practice for the liquidation of field operations to be accompanied by decisions of this decision-making body on the final allocations for those purposes. We do not quite understand how one can prescind from that. We would be grateful to Ms. Helga Schmid for clarification of the Secretariat's position on this matter.

As for the budgetary difficulties that the Secretary General spoke about, we would observe that all her appeals should be addressed to the Chairmanship, which has not been convening meetings of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance since March.

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

Thank you for your attention.