
Chairmanship: Finland**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1505th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Thursday, 23 January 2025

Opened: 11.40 a.m.

Closed: 2.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador V. Häkkinen
Ms. L. Saarikoski

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson offered his condolences to Türkiye in connection with the loss of life in a tragic hotel fire in Kartalkaya, Türkiye, on 20 January 2025. Türkiye thanked him for his expression of sympathy.

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Japan (Partner for Co-operation) to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador K. Iwama, to the Permanent Council.

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE
AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND,
H.E. MS. ELINA VALTONEN

Chairperson, Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Poland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Ukraine; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/17/25), United States of America (PC.DEL/21/25), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/3/25), Malta (PC.DEL/8/25 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/16/25 OSCE+), Albania (PC.DEL/4/25 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/9/25 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/7/25 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/11/25 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Armenia (PC.DEL/18/25 OSCE+), Switzerland

(PC.DEL/23/25 OSCE+), Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Belarus (PC.DEL/6/25 OSCE+), Montenegro (PC.DEL/13/25 OSCE+), Latvia (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) (PC.DEL/24/25 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Serbia (PC.DEL/15/25 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/19/25 OSCE+) , North Macedonia (PC.DEL/14/25 OSCE+), Holy See (PC.DEL/5/25/Rev.1 OSCE+), Sweden (PC.DEL/12/25 OSCE+), Moldova, Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/20/25 OSCE+), Israel (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Announcement of the adoption of Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/24 on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026:

The Chairperson informed the Permanent Council that the Chairperson-in-Office for 2024 had, in a letter issued on 30 December 2024 (Annex), announced the adoption, through a silence procedure, of Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/24 (MC.DEC/7/24) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Malta (PC.DEL/10/25 OSCE+), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 30 January 2025, at 9 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1505
23 January 2025
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

1505th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1505, Agenda item 3

LETTER OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Valletta, 30 December 2024

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, I have the honour of informing you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026 (MC.DD/8/24), expiring on 30 December 2024 at noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Thirty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and to the journal of the next meeting of the Permanent Council. Those participating States that intend to exercise their right to duly register an interpretative statement or formal reservation under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE are invited to do so through their OSCE delegations at the next meeting of the Permanent Council.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signature]

Hon. Dr. Ian Borg
Chairperson-in-Office



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

MC.DEC/7/24
30 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 7/24
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2026**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026.

MC.DEC/7/24
30 December 2024
Attachment

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 Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2026, the Russian Federation notes the following.

Our assumption is that, as holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Swiss Confederation will make a meaningful effort to salvage the Organization’s ability to perform, and to restore a culture of professional, dialogue-oriented inter-State co-operation.

We expect Switzerland to adhere closely to the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, as set out in the Porto Ministerial Council decision of 2002, and avert the recurrence of the shameful practice of previous Chairmanships with regard to introducing confrontationally worded topics for discussion at official events. We trust that the future Chairmanship will actively hold consultations with all participating States on the preparation of key events in the OSCE’s annual cycle, guarantee equal and unhindered access to these events for everyone without exception, and not allow programmatic work to be skewed altogether towards certain issues.

Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 – which stipulates that the OSCE’s leadership must act in the public eye exclusively in accordance with approaches agreed upon by consensus – remains a categorical imperative in the work of the Chairmanship-in-Office. No violations indulged in by previous Chairmanships may be used as a precedent or justification for any further deviations from that rule.

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