
Chairmanship: Italy**1183rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 26 April 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.15 p.m.
Closed: 5 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Azzoni
Ambassador M. Clemente

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Permanent Council, offered condolences to the families of the victims of the attacks in Toronto, Canada, on 23 April 2018 and in Kabul on 22 April 2018. Canada thanked the Chairperson for his expression of sympathy.

The Chairperson also marked the first anniversary of the death of Mr. Joseph Stone, a member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine who was killed by a mine in eastern Ukraine on 23 April 2017. The Council then observed a moment of silence.

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

Agenda item 1: UPDATE BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP, AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Discussion under agenda item 2

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE CHIEF MONITOR OF THE OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (PC.FR/10/18 OSCE+),

Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/518/18/Rev.1), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/495/18), Switzerland (PC.DEL/509/18 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/502/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/496/18), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/525/18 OSCE+), Norway (PC.DEL/528/18), Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/503/18 OSCE+), Germany, France (also on behalf of Germany), Georgia (PC.DEL/523/18 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/510/18)

Agenda item 3: **AWARD CEREMONY FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION (OSCE “GREEN ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A SOCIAL IMPACT – GEMS” AWARD, PRESENTED BY THE OSCE AND THE OSCE ITALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP)**

Chairperson, Mr. H. Boussada (on behalf of Ms. L. R. Boussada) (Algeria), Ms. Y. Yassin (Egypt), Mr. Y. Tadmor (Israel), Ms. L. Al-Kurdi (Jordan), Ms. S. Hasnaoui (on behalf of Mr. O. Benhlima) (Morocco), Mr. G. Gasparini (on behalf of Ms. A. Nisaf) (Tunisia), Mr. D. Sorrosal (European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers), Ms. B. Tuncer (Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production), Chairperson of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group (Slovakia), Secretary General, Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/527/18 OSCE+), Chairperson of the OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security (Spain) (PC.DEL/529/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: **REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES**

- (a) *32nd anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant:* Belarus (Annex), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/501/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/497/18), Ukraine (PC.DEL/511/18), Lithuania (PC.DEL/517/18 OSCE+)

- (b) *Recent developments in Armenia:* Armenia (PC.DEL/524/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/519/18/Rev.1), Switzerland (PC.DEL/508/18 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/498/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/499/18), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/526/18 OSCE+), Turkey, Chairperson

- (c) *Human rights violations and abuses against LGBTI persons in Chechnya*: Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Canada, Georgia, San Marino, Ukraine and the United States of America, in alignment) (PC.DEL/520/18), Russian Federation, Ukraine

- (d) *Response by Sweden to a statement made by the Russian Federation on the ODIHR's election observation methodology at the 1182nd meeting of the Permanent Council held on 19 April 2018*: Sweden, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/506/18)

- (e) *Recent developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process in Moldova*: Moldova (PC.DEL/530/18 OSCE+), Chairperson, Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and San Marino, in alignment) (PC.DEL/521/18), United States of America (PC.DEL/500/18), Ukraine (PC.DEL/512/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/507/18)

Agenda item 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Second Preparatory Meeting of the Twenty-Sixth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, to be held in Venice, Italy, on 24 and 25 May 2018*: Chairperson

- (b) *OSCE-wide Conference on Cyber/ICT Security, to be held in Rome on 27 and 28 September 2018*: Chairperson

- (c) *2018 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, to be held in Rome on 10 and 11 May 2018*: Chairperson

Agenda item 6: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Participation of the Secretary General in the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace held in the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 24 and 25 April 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+)

- (b) *Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in Central Asia held in Bishkek from 18 to 20 April 2018*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+)

- (c) *18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in Vienna on 23 and 24 April 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (d) *Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE, held in Vienna on 20 April 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+), Russian Federation*
- (e) *OSCE Security Days expert roundtable on “Adding value on the ground: enhancing OSCE impact through field activities”, to be held on 27 April 2018: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (f) *Planned visits and meetings of the Secretary General: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/72/18 OSCE+) (SEC.GAL/72/18/Add.1 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Early presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in Turkey on 24 June 2018: Turkey (PC.DEL/516/18 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Launching of an informal Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists: Lithuania (PC.DEL/513/18), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/504/18)*
- (c) *OSCE Regional Ministerial Conference on “Good Governance and Economic Connectivity – best practices within the OSCE region”, to be held in Ashgabat on 30 and 31 May 2018: Turkmenistan*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 3 May 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

PC.JOUR/1183

26 April 2018

Annex

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1183rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1183, Agenda item 4(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, we mark one of the saddest dates in modern history – the 32nd anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident – one of the biggest man-made disasters of the twentieth century in terms of scale and consequences.

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution Persistent Legacy of the Chernobyl Disaster (A/RES/71/125), decided, in order to raise awareness of the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, to designate 26 April as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2017, and invited all Member States, relevant agencies of the UN system and other international organizations to observe the day. We consider this an important symbolic step to strengthen international efforts to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

On this occasion, we should like once more to pay tribute to the hundreds and thousands of people from all around the Soviet Union who took part in the Chernobyl clean-up effort, and to all Chernobyl veterans who heroically, at the cost of their health and lives, protected the region's people from the destructive effects of radiation.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we know, the consequences of this terrible accident affected many European countries, but the severest legacy was in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

In Belarus, radioactive contamination affected close to a quarter of our territory, which was home to a fifth of our population. The cost of the Chernobyl disaster's legacy to our country over 30 years of recovery efforts has been estimated at 235 billion US dollars.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus found itself having to address the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster on its own, and the recovery effort became a national task of paramount importance. Belarus has implemented five State Chernobyl programmes between 1990 and 2015, with a total budget of more than 22 billion US dollars. We are currently implementing the sixth State programme for 2016–2020, which focuses on reducing

public health risks, long-term environmental monitoring, and facilitating regeneration and sustainable development of the affected regions.

Unfortunately, for all this, it is not possible to conclude that the bitter legacy of Chernobyl is now in the past. As we see it, overcoming the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl disaster requires not only substantial national efforts but also new partnerships to promote sustainable development of the affected regions and bring in innovation and investment.

Mr. Chairperson,

Belarus has repeatedly drawn the international community's attention to the need for continued international co-operation on Chernobyl. The UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/125 encourages Member States and all interested partners to support international co-operation on Chernobyl aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the affected regions.

We value greatly the help and support that we receive from international and regional organizations, governments and civil society organizations from other countries for regenerating and developing the affected regions. We are ready to share with the world the unique knowledge that we have gained in dealing with the consequences of this kind of disaster, as well as our experience in radiation protection and psychological rehabilitation of the population.

It is pleasing to see that the OSCE, while not an organization specialized in environmental matters, is also involved in the efforts and makes a contribution to international co-operation on Chernobyl and mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

The 2005 Ljubljana OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant said that the "OSCE will continue to contribute to international co-operation efforts to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, including through participation in and support of relevant projects, and to provide appropriate assistance and expertise."

In 2013–2015, as part of the Environment and Security initiative (ENVSEC), the OSCE carried out an extrabudgetary project assessing the environmental risks in the exclusion zone along the Ukrainian and Belarusian borders, which made it possible to map radioactive contamination along the border area and to prepare a handbook on radiation safety for border services in both countries.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with financial support from Austria, Germany and Lichtenstein, is currently carrying out a project to prevent and deal with wildfires on the territory contaminated by Chernobyl in Belarus and Ukraine.

In this respect, we should like to express our sincere thanks to the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the OSCE Secretariat and the

donor States for supporting these Chernobyl-related projects in Belarus. We hope that the OSCE will continue to make a valuable contribution to this important process.

We firmly believe that joint efforts of this kind play an important unifying role and strengthen the entire OSCE community's spirit of solidarity.

We hope for fruitful co-operation with all partners to overcome the persistent legacy of the Chernobyl disaster and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the affected regions.

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