
Chairmanship: Sweden**1346th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 25 November 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 6.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: **REPORT BY THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

Chairperson, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM.GAL/5/21/Rev.1 OSCE+), Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia 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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1835/21), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1807/21), United Kingdom, Turkey, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1827/21 OSCE+), Switzerland, Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/1811/21 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1830/21), Montenegro (PC.DEL/1816/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1806/21), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1808/21 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1815/21), Netherlands (also on behalf of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), Norway (PC.DEL/1831/21), Georgia (PC.DEL/1824/21 OSCE+), Croatia (Annex 1), Germany (Annex 2), Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Latvia (Annex 3), Poland

Agenda item 2: REPORT BY THE OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING
IN HUMAN BEINGS

Chairperson, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SEC.GAL/169/21/Rev.1), Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; 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, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1836/21), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Turkey, Canada, United States of America (PC.DEL/1813/21), Armenia (PC.DEL/1812/21), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1814/21 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1825/21 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1823/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A
DECISION ON THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE
YEAR 2025

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1421 (PC.DEC/1421) on the recommendation to adopt a decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2025, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation, Slovenia-European Union, Finland, Georgia

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL
FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING AGREED
CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, AGREEING PROJECTS TO
BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2021–2022, AND
SUPPLEMENTING THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADE FUND

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 1422 (PC.DEC/1422) on the establishment of a technical fund for the purpose of financing agreed capital requirements, agreeing projects to be implemented in 2021–2022, and supplementing the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (PC.DEL/1828/21), United Kingdom, Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North

Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1838/21), Turkey, Switzerland (PC.DEL/1833/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/1817/21), Canada

- (b) *Deteriorating situation in Ukraine and continued non-implementation by the Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1820/21), Ukraine
- (c) *Gender equality and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on 25 November 2021*: Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1839/21), Portugal, Canada (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Norway and Switzerland), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/1818/21), Sweden, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1821/21), Georgia (PC.DEL/1826/21 OSCE+), Iceland, Turkey, Belgium
- (d) *Russia's unjustified attacks on Memorial International and the deteriorating human rights environment in Russia*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1819/21), Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1837/21), United Kingdom, Norway (PC.DEL/1829/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1832/21 OSCE+), Canada, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1822/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
 CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Stockholm on 2 and 3 December 2021*: Chairperson
- (b) *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Moscow on 18 and 19 November 2021*: Chairperson
- (c) *Extension of the call for nominations for the position of Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine until 10 December 2021*: Chairperson
- (d) *Briefing on the monthly topic of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for November 2021, which is gender equality*: Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a) *Visit of the Secretary General to Bosnia and Herzegovina*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/171/21 OSCE+)
- (b) *Food-for-thought paper on the potential response to the implications of the situation in Afghanistan for the OSCE region* (SEC.GAL/170/21 OSCE+): Secretary General, Slovenia-European Union
- (c) *2021 Max van der Stoep Award ceremony, held in The Hague on 19 November 2021*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/171/21 OSCE+)
- (d) *16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence*: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/171/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/1346
25 November 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

1346th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1346, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA**

Croatia aligns itself fully with the statement made by the European Union and welcomes the report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. In addition, allow me to make a short statement in my national capacity.

Croatia was mentioned in the report in connection with “legal harassment” and its “increasingly negative impact on the legal environment for media”.

In that regard, let me reiterate Croatia’s firm commitment to the full implementation of the relevant legal framework pertaining to the media. Moreover, Croatia continuously strives to improve this normative framework, with the goal of ensuring the highest European and international legal standards for the work of the media in the Croatian public sphere.

Furthermore, and in the above-mentioned connection, I would like to emphasize that Croatia has recognized and is actively addressing the issue of so-called SLAPP lawsuits (strategic lawsuits against public participation). The Ministry of Culture and Media has established a working group with the precise task of defining SLAPP suits and providing all interested parties with information on the subject. The working group is made up of representatives of the Croatian Journalists’ Association and the Union of Croatian Journalists, publishers, lawyers, judges, public prosecutors and university professors of law.

I am convinced that this working group will also make use of the Special Report on Legal Harassment and Abuse of the Judicial System against the Media published by the Representative on Freedom of the Media just two days ago.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1346
25 November 2021
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1346th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1346, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Madam Chairperson,

The European Union and the Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists have already spoken, also on behalf of Germany.

I should like in a national capacity to add how grateful we are to Teresa Ribeiro for her work, for the coherently designed report and the most recent important report on legal harassment and abuse of the judicial system.

We are alarmed at the further increase in the hostility and repression suffered by journalists, media workers and independent media throughout the OSCE area, both online and offline. Unfortunately, Germany is also not free of cases of physical violence against journalists and media workers. Ms. Ribeiro rightly referred to this in her report.

However, the deteriorating situation with regard to freedom of the media is not an unstoppable process. The Representative on Freedom of the Media also mentioned this. We participating States can move purposefully to combat it. As an example, Ms. Ribeiro referred in her report to the media protection team of the police in Saxony, which has been established to provide specific protection to journalists during demonstrations. The United Kingdom National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists is another example.

Measures to counter the deteriorating situation with regard to freedom of the media are possible and called for. We therefore explicitly welcome the proposal by the Media Representative to support participating States in the drafting of protection plans.

We also strongly support the proposal to focus more on economic factors in journalism in the framework of an advisory group of eminent persons. In this anniversary year, these are two well-chosen measures that we support.

Journalism currently faces a multitude of challenges, and the protection of media freedom is a task for all of us, since free and independent media form the basis for a pluralistic civil society, for democracy and for security in the OSCE area.

I thank Ms. Ribeiro for her important work and you, Madam Chairperson, for your attention. I ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1346
25 November 2021
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1346th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1346, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and the statement delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the OSCE Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists, but I should like to take this opportunity to add some remarks in my national capacity.

We welcome the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms Teresa Ribeiro, to the Permanent Council and thank her for her second report.

In her report, Ms. Ribeiro notes several issues that are having a negative impact on freedom of the media in the OSCE area. Latvia attaches great importance to addressing and resolving those issues both nationally and together with partner countries and international organizations and forums, including the Media Freedom Coalition, the Freedom Online Coalition, and the various Groups of Friends on the Safety of Journalists at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris and here at the OSCE.

I invite us all to ponder the following question: why are we all participating in today's Permanent Council meeting online? Because there are too few vaccinated people, thus too many people in hospitals and too many people dying from COVID-19 as we speak. In these circumstances – when lockdowns and states of emergency are being introduced in various countries, and new negative records are being set in the number of deaths from COVID-19 – if media outlets still publish articles calling on people not to get vaccinated, claiming that COVID-19 is not so contagious, does the media have any responsibility? When people die in hospitals from COVID-19 after reading such articles and trusting the media, does the media have any responsibility? Are media outlets at least interested in keeping their readers or viewers alive? Disinformation, as we have seen across the world, costs lives. But if the media does have responsibility for preventing disinformation, this must be laid out in legislation. Should all laws relating to the rights and responsibilities of the media be the same for all media outlets? I hope that the answer to this question is “yes”.

One of the issues raised by the Representative on Freedom of the Media in her report is diminishing trust in the media. We agree that this is a major concern which needs to be

addressed in order to safeguard freedom of the media, freedom of expression and media pluralism in the OSCE area. We are definitely not alone, though, in facing this challenge. In this regard, we welcome the Media Representative's co-operation with her counterparts in other international organizations.

Latvia was among the initiators and drafters of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Global Media and Information Literacy Week that was co-sponsored by 96 United Nations Member States and adopted by consensus this last March in New York. The resolution aims to enhance people's ability to orient themselves in and navigate the information space; it is also intended to combat disinformation and misinformation, while at the same time upholding freedom of speech and freedom of the media. The broad support elicited by the resolution shows just how important and pressing the problem of disinformation and misinformation is worldwide. As I mentioned earlier, disinformation costs lives.

Freedom of the media, freedom of expression, media pluralism and the safety of journalists, especially female journalists, both online and offline remain among Latvia's top priorities, and we will continue to seek tirelessly to advance them, since they form the bedrock of democracy. We commend the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media on these issues and the cross-dimensional approach that she is taking to address them. We will continue to engage closely with Ms. Ribeiro and her team.

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



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

PC.DEC/1421
25 November 2021

Original: ENGLISH

1346th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1346, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 1421
RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A DECISION ON THE
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2025**

The Permanent Council,

Taking note of the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland of 19 November 2021 (CIO.GAL/136/21) expressing Finland's readiness to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2025,

1. Requests the Chairperson of the Permanent Council to transmit to the Chairperson-in-Office the draft decision of the Ministerial Council on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2025 (MC.DD/24/21 of 23 November 2021);
2. Recommends to the Ministerial Council the adoption of this decision through a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on Tuesday, 30 November 2021, at 6 p.m. CET.

1346th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1346, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 1422
**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
FINANCING AGREED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, AGREEING
PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2021–2022, AND
SUPPLEMENTING THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE FUND**

The Permanent Council,

Taking note of the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2022–2026, including needs arising in 2021, as contained in PC.ACMF/41/21 and the update to the CIP as contained in PC.ACMF/59/21,

Taking note of the capital investment and other major requirements identified for implementation in 2021 and 2022, as contained in PC.ACMF/102/21/Rev.1/Corr.1,

Taking note of the projected underspending of Unified Budget 2021 due to constraints on activity resulting from late budget approval and the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected in the third quarter 2021 Utilization and Year-End Forecast Report (PC.ACMF/75/21),

Taking note of the available 2019 and 2020 cash surpluses,

Decides to:

1. Establish a Technical Fund for the purpose of financing and administering of agreed capital investments and other major requirements identified in PC.ACMF/102/21/Rev.1/Corr.1;
2. Request the Unified Budget Fund Managers to allocate from the identified 2021 underspending to the newly established Technical Fund an amount of 960,000 euros for the purpose of financing of the projects identified in PC.ACMF/102/21/Rev.1/Corr.1;
3. Request the Unified Budget Fund Managers to allocate from the identified 2021 underspending an amount of 565,400 euros for the purpose of financing of the additional requirements for the replacement of ICT client equipment in 2021 and 2022, identified in PC.ACMF/102/21/Rev.1/Corr.1, of which 259,200 euros in support of 2022 client equipment is ring-fenced and reserved, with implementation subject to a later decision by the Permanent Council;

4. Authorize the transfer of 2019 cash surplus, on an exceptional basis, in an amount of 482,500 euros to the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Fund for the purpose of financing additional requirements of the Secure Microsoft Infrastructure (SMI) project;

5. Authorize the use and future availability, on an exceptional basis, of the reallocated Unified Budget 2021 underspend and the 2019 cash surplus in support of the capital investment and other major requirements until fully implemented, up to the amounts identified for each project, and in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.03;

Further decides that:

6. Any funds remaining available at the time of completion of the agreed projects shall be treated in accordance with Financial Regulation 7.07;

7. Unless otherwise decided by the Permanent Council, the Technical Fund shall be closed upon completion of the agreed capital investment projects identified in PC.ACMF/102/21.Rev.1/Corr.1;

Requests the Secretary General to:

8. Provide reports on the implementation of these projects on a quarterly basis;

9. Ensure that the activities foreseen under these projects are completed in the most cost-effective and timely manner.