OSCE

PC.DEC/1532
30 July 2026

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

Original: ENGLISH

1575th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1575, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 1532
CLOSURE OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 732 of 29 June 2006 on the establishment of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro,

Taking note of the letters sent by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, H.E. Mr. Ervin Ibrahimović, to the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, on 25 May 2026, and to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Ignazio Cassis, on 2 June 2026, which emphasized the OSCE's role as a steadfast and credible partner of Montenegro,

Welcoming the constructive approach displayed by the Montenegrin authorities and their readiness to engage closely with the Organization, the Chairmanship and other participating States in a transparent and orderly transition to ensure the successful completion of the work of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro,

Commending the substantial contribution of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro over the past two decades to progress achieved by Montenegro across a broad range of areas, including the rule of law, democratization, electoral reform, media freedom, human rights, good governance and reforms in the security sector,

1. Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro until 31 December 2027 to allow the Mission to complete its activities in an orderly manner;

2. Decides to close the OSCE Mission to Montenegro by 31 December 2027;

3. Approves 1,979,500 euros to carry out mandate-related activities from 1 January 2027 until 30 September 2027 and to complete all procedures for the closure of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro by 31 December 2027;

4. Reaffirms that any savings identified within the 2027 financial resources will be treated in accordance with Financial Regulation 7.07;

5. Tasks the Head of Mission, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to complete all the required procedures related to the closure of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro by 31 December 2027;

6. Tasks the OSCE Secretariat to undertake any residual administrative follow-up that may need to be completed after 31 December 2027.

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30 July 2026
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 Montenegro:

"Mr. Chairperson,

In relation to the decision on the closure of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, we would like to make the following statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

As Montenegro has stated on several occasions and in different formats throughout this process, today's decision represents the natural conclusion of a long, successful and truly collaborative partnership between our country and the OSCE.

Over the past 20 years, the OSCE Mission has been an important partner in Montenegro's democratic development and reform journey. Working together, we have strengthened institutions, advanced reforms and built sustainable capacities across all three dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

The decision to close the Mission by the end of 2027 reflects the tangible progress Montenegro has achieved in advancing its reform agenda and broader strategic priorities. Reports of the successive Heads of Mission have consistently reflected this progress, while recognizing the growing capacity and the strength of national ownership. Many of the reforms, mechanisms and practices developed with the Mission's support are now firmly embedded within our institutions and increasingly driven by domestic expertise and responsibility.

Dear colleagues,

We also believe this decision carries a broader message for our Organization. It demonstrates that the OSCE delivers results. Montenegro is an example of how a field operation, working in genuine partnership with the host country and supported by participating States, can successfully fulfil its mandate by strengthening institutions, fostering resilience and enabling national ownership.

In that sense, the orderly completion of the Mission's mandate is not only Montenegro's success story. It is equally a success story for the OSCE, its participating

States, the Secretariat and the Mission itself. It is a clear example of the lasting impact that focused, responsive and well-targeted field operations can achieve.

Allow me, finally, to express Montenegro's sincere appreciation to all Heads of Mission, international and national Mission staff, the Secretariat, successive Chairmanships and participating States whose professionalism, commitment and support made this shared achievement possible.

We will remain a committed and engaged participating State, bringing forward the experience of a genuine success story that demonstrates the enduring value of the OSCE and its field operations.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you."

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Attachment 2

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

The delegation of Ireland, 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 decision on the closure of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The European Union takes note of Montenegro's request for a transparent and orderly transition to ensure a successful completion of the work of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro by the end of 2027. We welcome the constructive approach of the Montenegrin authorities and their readiness to engage closely with the Secretariat, the Chairmanship and participating States with a view to ensuring an orderly and well-prepared process.

The European Union congratulates the OSCE Mission to Montenegro on its dedicated work in carrying out its mandate, notably by assisting and promoting the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, and by supporting Montenegro's co-operation with the OSCE across all three dimensions.

We commend the Mission for two decades of constructive co-operation and fruitful partnership with Montenegrin institutions, civil society and media. We recognize the Mission's valuable contribution to advancing Montenegro's broader reform agenda across a wide range of areas. The Mission's support has also accompanied progress relevant to Montenegro's European Union path, including the provisional closure of numerous negotiating chapters during 2025 and 2026.

We acknowledge the Mission's intention to complete the implementation of its 2025–2027 strategic workplan to assist Montenegro in consolidating OSCE-related reform achievements from the past 20 years with a view to long-term sustainability and in line with the country's strategic ambitions.

The successful completion of the Mission's work would mark an important milestone of the Organization's long-standing contribution to Montenegro's democratic reforms and development.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, San Marino, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this interpretative statement."

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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:

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

The United Kingdom is pleased to support the adoption of this decision. Montenegro's request to transition to national ownership of OSCE functions by the end of 2027 is a positive reflection of the commitments and progress Montenegro has made in sustaining momentum on reforms. This is a clear indication of the success of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and the exemplary support it has provided over the last 20 years.

The United Kingdom stands ready to engage with the Government, OSCE Mission, Secretariat and autonomous institutions to ensure a smooth and well-prepared transition to new forms of OSCE engagement with and support for Montenegro.

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

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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 closure of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the Russian Federation proceeds from the following premises.

Russia welcomes the winding-up of the Mission's work by the end of 2027 at the request of the host country. In supporting this request, we are guided by paragraph 41 of the Charter for European Security (1999), whereby the activities of the Organization's field operations should be brought to a close as and when these have transferred their functions to the host country.

We note that the decision to close the Mission has been taken by the Montenegrin authorities at this specific moment, when the main preconditions for that participating State to join the European Union have been fulfilled and further services by the OSCE field operation are no longer required in this process. This confirms that the Mission's work was, in effect, geared towards facilitating EU accession – something that in no way falls under its mandate as approved by the Permanent Council.

We regret to note that the financial resources earmarked for the closure of the Mission are being allocated as a lump sum without cost details. Such an approach is not in line with international best practices and does not reflect generally accepted principles of budgetary discipline.

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