OSCE

PC.JOUR/1582
22 October 2026

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

Original: ENGLISH

Chairmanship: Switzerland

1582nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 22 October 2026 (in the Ratsaal)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.50 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Nägeli

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Qatar to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador J. Y. Al-Hamadi, to the Permanent Council.

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

Agenda item 1: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION ON GRANTING OF THE STATUS OF PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION TO QATAR

The Chairperson informed the Permanent Council that the Chairman-in-Office, in a letter issued on 20 October 2026 (Annex 2), had announced the adoption, through a silence procedure, of Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/26 (MC.DEC/1/26) on granting of the status of Partner for Co-operation to Qatar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Finland, Mongolia, Kazakhstan (also on behalf of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (PC.DEL/1035/26 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Ireland, Ireland-European Union, Türkiye, Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (also on behalf of Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Australia (Partner for Co-operation), the Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation) and Thailand (Partner for Co-operation)), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation), Qatar (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/1060/26), United Kingdom, Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1049/26), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1059/26 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1032/26), Norway, Romania (PC.DEL/1037/26 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1030/26)

Point of order: Ukraine, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: 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/121/26), Ireland-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1051/26), United States of America (Annex 3), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1039/26 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1066/26 OSCE+), Ukraine (PC.DEL/1065/26), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1034/26), United Kingdom, Canada (PC.DEL/1033/26 OSCE+), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/1029/26 OSCE+), Armenia (PC.DEL/1061/26), Mongolia, Montenegro, Georgia (PC.DEL/1054/26 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1056/26 OSCE+), Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina (PC.DEL/1064/26 OSCE+), Poland (Annex 4), Romania (PC.DEL/1042/26 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE TIMETABLE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (not adopted)

Chairperson, Georgia, Ireland-European Union, Canada, United Kingdom

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON FORWARDING OF A DRAFT AGENDA TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (not adopted)

Chairperson, Georgia

Agenda item 6: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

(a) *The ongoing hybrid war waged by NATO and the European Union against Russia*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1031/26), Italy

(b) *Urgency of the budget timeline*: United States of America (PC.DEL/1053/26)

(c) *Recent developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1036/26), Moldova, Ireland-European Union, United Kingdom, Romania (PC.DEL/1045/26/Rev.1 OSCE+)

(d) *Seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Baku on 15 October 2026*: Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/1048/26 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1043/26 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1041/26 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/1044/26 OSCE+), Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

(e) *Deteriorating social rights and social stability in the OSCE region*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1038/26), Belarus (PC.DEL/1046/26 OSCE+)

Agenda item 7: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. I. Cassis, to Armenia and Georgia on 15 and 16 October 2026: Chairperson, Armenia (PC.DEL/1062/26), Russian Federation, Georgia (PC.DEL/1055/26 OSCE+)

Agenda item 8: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/122/26 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Twenty-Fourth Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Andorra from 7 to 9 October 2026*: Andorra (PC.DEL/1050/26 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PC.GAL/13/26 OSCE+)

(b) *Outcomes of the "Vienna discussions" on OSCE human dimension issues, held by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE on 21 October 2026*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/1040/26 OSCE+), Chairperson, Belarus (PC.DEL/1047/26 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union, United Kingdom

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 October 2026, at 10 a.m., in the Ratsaal

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.JOUR/1582
22 October 2026
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1582nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1582, Point 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

It is disappointing that the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office, bending to the political climate, continues to include a confrontational item on "Russian aggression against Ukraine" in the Permanent Council's agenda.

Such actions by the Chairmanship are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)). This precludes the possibility of equal and non-discriminatory participation in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE as regards consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.JOUR/1582
22 October 2026
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1582nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1582, Agenda item 1

LETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Vienna, 20 October 2026

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, I am pleased to inform you that the period of silence on the draft Ministerial Council decision to grant Qatar the status of Partner for Co-operation, expiring on Tuesday, 20 October 2026 at 12 noon CET, has not been broken.

The decision is therefore effective as of today and will be attached to the journal of the Thirty-Third 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 at the next meeting of the Permanent Council.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Ignazio Cassis
Federal Councillor
OSCE Chairman-in-Office

To:
Ministers of Foreign Affairs
of OSCE participating States

OSCE

PC.JOUR/1582
22 October 2026
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

1582nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1582, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Special Representative Johnstone, dear Kari,

Thank you for your report and for your Office's continued leadership on this urgent issue.

The United States welcomes your work addressing the convergence of crimes and emerging forms of trafficking, notably forced scamming and drug trafficking. Combating human trafficking is a United States priority, and a core OSCE mandate, one the Organization must continue to emphasize as it returns to basics. The United States just released the 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report on 8 October which reveals new ways criminal organizations and repressive regimes use this abhorrent practice for financial gain. The rapid growth of forced criminality, particularly in scam centres, demands action; these centres defraud Americans of billions of dollars each year, deceptively recruiting, and then coercing, victims worldwide into committing these crimes. For our part, the United States is decisively combating this threat, including through sanctions, indictments, and rewards programmes, having sanctioned more than 200 individuals and entities involved in scam centres over the last two years.

This work illustrates your Office's added value, reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security and its links to the security, economic, and human dimensions.

We commend the Office of the Special Representative's convening role and engagement with all participating States and partners. The lesson for the OSCE area is clear: we cannot win this fight unless all countries take meaningful action; we must work together to identify scam centres, disrupt their operations, and prosecute perpetrators.

The United States places particular importance on the promotion of survivor-centred approaches and the non-punishment principle. While holding perpetrators accountable is essential, it is only one part of the response; we must also protect the victims forced into criminality, who are too often penalized for crimes they were compelled to commit. In January 2026, President Trump signed the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, giving trafficking victims a path to vacate federal convictions and expunge arrest records for crimes they were forced to commit. Survivors who had lived through trafficking helped shape this

law and were critical to its eventual passage. Elevating survivor engagement and embedding survivors' expertise into programming, policy, and victim assistance remains a key United States priority. The International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) remains a model of this principle in action: ten survivor leaders from across the OSCE providing direct, formal guidance to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and, through it, to the 57 participating States.

Looking ahead, the United States supports a whole-of-society approach to combating trafficking, bringing together governments, civil society, and the private sector as partners.

We also welcome your Office's priority focus on trafficking in times of crisis. In Ukraine, for example, nearly one-third of the population has been displaced due to the war, increasing vulnerability to human trafficking. Identification, intervention, and investigation efforts for trafficking victims must be treated as essential activities during and after any crisis or state of emergency; these services cannot stop when everything else does.

We support integrating trafficking prevention into post-war reconstruction. We note your work with the OSCE's RESTORE Ukraine Alliance, a programme that brings together governments, international organizations, business, employers' organizations, financial institutions, civil society, and communities around the shared objective of ensuring Ukraine's recovery is free from human trafficking and exploitation.

Finally, as your Office marks its 20th anniversary this year, the United States recognizes that this structure has provided the foundation for the Office's ability to deliver on its mandate and provide focused, specialized support to participating States.

It is time for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE, and participating States to translate today's discussion into concrete outcomes. The United States stands ready to work together to combat forced criminality and protect survivors.

OSCE

PC.JOUR/1582
22 October 2026
Annex 4

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

Original: ENGLISH

1582nd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1582, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF POLAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Poland aligns itself with the European Union statement, but let me add a few remarks in my national capacity.

We join other participating States in thanking the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for her comprehensive report.

Dr. Johnstone, thank you for remaining consistent and focused on core priorities throughout your mandate. Poland attaches great importance to co-operation with the OSCE on the issue of combating trafficking in human beings and highly values the work of your Office.

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery and a serious crime in gross violation of fundamental human rights. As we have heard in the report, traffickers exploit vulnerable individuals, mainly those who migrate for work or seek refuge.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the resulting massive displacement have increased the risk of human trafficking across the European continent.

Increasingly, traffickers use highly adaptive recruitment methods that blend psychological manipulation, economic pressure, cyber scam tools, and social media.

Hence, we as participating States need to adapt as well, develop, and implement new measures and effective model practices.

Here, I would like to draw your attention to the Polish National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2025–2027, which is Poland's tenth National Action Plan. Let me highlight one of the objectives of this National Action Plan, namely raising public awareness of the human trafficking issue as a key preventive measure in combating trafficking in human beings.

Thank you, Dr. Johnstone, for including in your report an example of an awareness-raising campaign on human trafficking risks for Ukrainian refugees called

"Be Safe": a campaign, also in digital form, at railway stations across Poland, including border crossing points, that overall has reached more than 25 million people.

In this context, let me also highlight a recent joint initiative by Austria, Canada, Italy, Ukraine and Poland called the RESTORE Ukraine Initiative, launched at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Gdańsk this June with the involvement of the OSCE's Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The aim of this project is to focus on the prevention of, and protection from trafficking at the earliest possible stage of Ukraine's reconstruction by bringing together governments, international organizations, business, civil society and donors.

My final point today is an issue that demands sustained attention at the OSCE: the illicit recruitment of foreign fighters by Russia.

The findings of the mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' Ninth Interim Report (published under the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative), and other international investigations and reports from major human rights organizations confirm that Russia uses systematically deceptive and coercive recruitment tactics and exploits economically vulnerable individuals to press them into Russia's armed forces and defence industry. A growing number of citizens from countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America have been lured or unwillingly coerced into joining the Russian military and fighting in the war against Ukraine. This recruitment practice constitutes State-sponsored human trafficking and qualifies as a grave violation of international law.

We request the support of the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in raising awareness and sensitizing the OSCE participating States to Moscow's tactics on illicit recruitment into the Russian armed forces.

In closing, let me assure you of our continuous engagement with your Office and wish you, Dr. Johnstone, dear Kari, and your very dedicated team every success in future projects and activities.

We look forward to your visit to Poland.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's Permanent Council Plenary Meeting.

I thank you.

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council

MC.DEC/1/26
20 October 2026

Original: ENGLISH

DECISION No. 1/26
GRANTING OF THE STATUS OF PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION TO QATAR

The Ministerial Council,

Noting with appreciation the letter from the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, dated 25 March 2026 (CIO.GAL/63/26), requesting that Qatar be granted the status of Partner for Co-operation,

Noting with satisfaction that Qatar supports the principles, values and goals of the OSCE and intends to contribute, as appropriate, to OSCE meetings and activities,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 430 (19 July 2001) on recommendations concerning future applications for partnership,

Recalling all Permanent Council decisions and Ministerial Council decisions and declarations concerning the Partners for Co-operation, in particular the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (MC.DOC/1/07), the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 (MC.DEC/5/11) on the Partners for Co-operation, the Basel Ministerial Council Declaration on Co-operation with the Asian Partners (MC.DOC/10/14), the Bratislava Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/19 (MC.DEC/2/19) on renaming the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and the Tirana Ministerial Council Declaration on Co-operation with the OSCE Asian Partners (MC.DOC/2/20),

With reference to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (MC.DOC/1/06),

Decides:

1. To welcome Qatar as a Partner for Co-operation;

2. To invite Qatar to join the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group;

3. All provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and other OSCE documents related to States referred to in paragraph IV.1(D)4 of the Rules of Procedure shall be applicable to Qatar.