

Meetings: the situation in Cyprus

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8453 30 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/37)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2019/89)			Four Council members (China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States)	Resolution 2453 (2019) 15-0-0
S/PV.8586 25 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/562)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2019/595)			Two Council members (Russian Federation, United States)	Resolution 2483 (2019) 15-0-0

20. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia**A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In 2019, the Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council continued the consideration of the item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.³⁷² More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.

In his briefings to the Council in 2019, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina provided updates on developments in connection with his two reports for the year.³⁷³ At the meeting on 8 May 2019,³⁷⁴ the High Representative reported that seven months after the general elections, the process of building coalitions and appointing governments continued to dominate the political dynamic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that, while the Republika Srpska and some cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had moved swiftly to form governments, there had been no appointment of a State-level council of Ministers or of a Federation government. He also underlined that the continuation of divisive and destabilizing rhetoric from some of the political

leadership posed a serious challenge to Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the positive consensus on the need for further integration with the European Union. In that regard, he implored the country's leaders to abandon such rhetoric and to take strides to keep the country moving forward on the path to the European Union. He said that political leaders continued to shirk their obligations with respect to the rule of law, particularly and persistently failing to respect binding decisions of the State judiciary, and that there had been efforts to curb freedom of expression and dissent.

During the discussion that followed the briefing of 8 May, most Council members welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote national reconciliation and socioeconomic development and its continued engagement in the process of integration with the European Union. Speakers expressed concern about the delays in the formation of the Federation government and of the State Council of Ministers six months after the elections and urged political representatives to engage constructively and to refrain from using divisive rhetoric to create favourable conditions for the reconciliation process. In addition, most members of the Council reiterated their calls on the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps required to implement the "5+2" agenda, necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the report of the High Representative was far from an impartial assessment of the situation in the country and

³⁷² For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³⁷³ See [S/2019/364](#) and [S/2019/843](#).

³⁷⁴ See [S/PV.8522](#).

expressed disagreement with specific aspects of the report, including on the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He added that it was vital to continue reducing the budget and staffing of the Office of the High Representative, as it had become an impediment to the country's future democratic progress.

In his second briefing to the Council, on 5 November 2019,³⁷⁵ following the unanimous adoption of resolution 2496 (2019), the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed regret that, more than a year after the general elections in October 2018, no governments had yet been formed at the State or Federation levels. He also expressed regret for the continued slow pace in implementing urgent electoral reforms and strengthening the rule of law, as well as for the continuation of divisive rhetoric. At the same meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina programme of TRIAL International, a non-governmental organization supporting victims of international crimes. She regretted that, despite some positive developments, progress in bringing war criminals to justice had been slow. In that regard, she requested that the Council and the international community demand that victims see their right to justice, truth and reparations fully implemented and that the Council support the initiatives aimed at delivering justice and reconciliation.

Prior to the briefing, the Council adopted resolution 2496 (2019), by which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it renewed the authorization of the multinational stabilization force, operation Althea of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea), and the continued presence of the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the country for a period of 12 months starting from the date of the adoption of the resolution.³⁷⁶ In the resolution, the Council also urged the parties to proceed with the formation of governments at all levels and to prioritize the implementation of comprehensive reforms; it also called on the parties to refrain from any polarizing and unconstructive policy, action and rhetoric.³⁷⁷

At the same meeting, during the debate that followed the briefing,³⁷⁸ most Council members welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution 2496 (2019) and commended the High Representative for his efforts to promote the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement) and EUFOR-Althea for its contributions to preserving stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation again said that the report of the High Representative did not provide an objective and balanced picture of what was happening in the country and criticized the continuing bias against Bosnian Serbs and Croats. He added that, given the mention in the report of the serious differences in views between Bosnians, Serbs and Croats on the way forward in developing the statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the High Representative should focus on promoting a culture of dialogue and provide, if necessary, good offices to resolve disputes among Bosnians. He also called on the Council and the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina to step up efforts to close the Office of the High Representative.

³⁷⁵ See S/PV.8658.

³⁷⁶ Resolution 2496 (2019) paras. 3–4. For more information on EUFOR-Althea, see part VIII, sect. III.

³⁷⁷ Resolution 2496 (2019), para. 8.

³⁷⁸ See S/PV.8658.

Meetings: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)
S/PV.8522 8 May 2019	Letter dated 1 May 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/364)		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

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S/PV.8658 5 November 2019	Letter dated 25 October 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/843)	Draft resolution submitted by Germany (S/2019/859)	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme of TRIAL International, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, all invitees ^b	Resolution 2496 (2019) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a The Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

^b The Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme of TRIAL International participated in the meeting by videoconference from Sarajevo. The Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine.

B. Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled “Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)”. All meetings took the form of briefings,³⁷⁹ and no decisions were adopted by the Council under the item in 2019. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

In a note by the President of the Council dated 7 February 2019,³⁸⁰ the Council expressed its intent to hold briefings on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) three times in 2019 and, as from 2020, to hold briefings twice a year, in April and October. Consistent with the note, in 2019, the Council heard three briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, in February, June and October,³⁸¹ in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). In 2019, the Council

also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel.³⁸²

The briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General were focused on the continued tensions and impediments to the resumption of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina,³⁸³ the changes in Kosovo’s political landscape following the conduct of elections in Serb-majority municipalities and early general elections³⁸⁴ and the security incident of 28 May 2019, which resulted in the arrest of UNMIK personnel.³⁸⁵ In his briefing, on 10 June 2019,³⁸⁶ the United Nations Legal Counsel focused on the legal regime of immunity for United Nations staff members in Kosovo as an element of the response to the events of 28 May and the follow-up to those events. He explained that the Department of Safety and Security had undertaken an internal investigation to gather all available information regarding the circumstances surrounding the arrest and detention of two UNMIK staff members in order to look into the allegations made by the Kosovo authorities regarding their conduct.

In 2019, Council members addressed the agreement reached on reducing the cycle of meetings and reporting on the item.³⁸⁷ While some Council

³⁷⁹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³⁸⁰ [S/2019/120](#).

³⁸¹ See [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

³⁸² See [S/PV.8541](#).

³⁸³ See [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

³⁸⁴ See [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

³⁸⁵ Ibid.

³⁸⁶ See [S/PV.8541](#).

³⁸⁷ See [S/2019/120](#).

members expressed support for the agreement,³⁸⁸ the representative of the Russian Federation expressed a different view, affirming that the situation in Kosovo was unstable and that it must remain firmly under the Council's control and be considered on the basis of the established practice of holding open briefings.³⁸⁹

Some Council members welcomed the successful holding of legislative elections in Kosovo on 6 October 2019 and expressed the hope that it would be an opportunity to encourage dialogue and reform.³⁹⁰ Council members expressed concern at the rising tensions between Belgrade and Pristina, called on both Serbia and Kosovo to tone down the confrontational rhetoric and discussed options to facilitate the resumption of dialogue between the parties.³⁹¹ The representative of China stated that the parties concerned should reach a mutually acceptable solution on the issue of Kosovo through dialogue within the framework of relevant Council resolutions.³⁹² Other Council members urged the resumption of the dialogue facilitated by the European Union³⁹³ and, in that context, called for the lifting of tariffs imposed by the Government of Kosovo on goods imported from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the cessation of the call by the Government of Serbia for other countries to withdraw their recognition of Kosovo.³⁹⁴ The representative of the Russian Federation reminded the Council that it had been, and continued to be, the main platform for international dialogue on Kosovo, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).³⁹⁵ He also said that the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina under the auspices of the

European Union seemed to be “comatose”, with nothing having been done in that format for a very long time.³⁹⁶

On the question of Kosovo's independence, the representative of the Russian Federation highlighted the attempts by Kosovo authorities, with the support of a number of States, to join various international organizations and averred that Pristina could participate in multilateral structures only through UNMIK and that anything else would be a serious contravention of the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999).³⁹⁷ Other Council members held a different view, recognizing the independence of Kosovo.³⁹⁸

In relation to the work of UNMIK, Council members considered the possibility of conducting a strategic review of the Mission's mandate. Some members held the view that it was necessary to conduct a review of the Mission given the drastic change of conditions in Kosovo since the beginning of its mandate and the need to assess the Mission's withdrawal.³⁹⁹ The representative of the Russian Federation did not support the proposed review, contending that the problems in Kosovo were not yet resolved, and called on the Secretariat to carefully monitor the situation.⁴⁰⁰

Regarding the incident of 28 May, Council members expressed concern about the detention of UNMIK personnel in the course of a police operation conducted by authorities in northern Kosovo.⁴⁰¹ In that connection, the representative of the Russian Federation demanded that those responsible be prosecuted and punished.⁴⁰² They welcomed the report on the Mission's internal investigation into the matter and reaffirmed that the privileges, immunities, safety and security of United Nations personnel should be fully respected.⁴⁰³

³⁸⁸ See [S/PV.8459](#) (United Kingdom, Germany, United States, Belgium and Poland); and [S/PV.8541](#) (United States).

³⁸⁹ See [S/PV.8459](#) and [S/PV.8541](#).

³⁹⁰ See [S/PV.8655](#) (United Kingdom, France, Poland, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru).

³⁹¹ See [S/PV.8459](#) (Germany, United States, Russian Federation, China and Indonesia); [S/PV.8541](#) (United States, Germany, Indonesia and Poland); and [S/PV.8655](#) (United Kingdom, Germany, United States, China, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru).

³⁹² See [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

³⁹³ See [S/PV.8459](#) (United Kingdom, Germany, United States, France, Belgium, Peru, Indonesia, Kuwait, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea); [S/PV.8541](#) (South Africa, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Poland, Peru and Kuwait); and [S/PV.8655](#) (France, Germany, Poland, Indonesia, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Equatorial Guinea and Peru).

³⁹⁴ See [S/PV.8459](#) (Germany, United States and Indonesia); [S/PV.8541](#) (Côte d'Ivoire and Poland); and [S/PV.8655](#) (Germany, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru).

³⁹⁵ [S/PV.8459](#).

³⁹⁶ [S/PV.8655](#).

³⁹⁷ See [S/PV.8459](#).

³⁹⁸ See [S/PV.8459](#) (United Kingdom and Germany); [S/PV.8541](#) (United States); and [S/PV.8655](#) (United States).

³⁹⁹ See [S/PV.8459](#) (United Kingdom, United States and Poland); [S/PV.8541](#) (United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Poland); and [S/PV.8655](#) (United States and Poland). For more information on the mandate of UNMIK, see part X, sect. I.

⁴⁰⁰ See [S/PV.8655](#).

⁴⁰¹ See [S/PV.8541](#) (China, South Africa, United States, Equatorial Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation and Kuwait); and [S/PV.8655](#) (United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, United States, China, Indonesia, Peru and South Africa).

⁴⁰² See [S/PV.8655](#).

⁴⁰³ *Ibid.*, (United Kingdom, Russian Federation, United States, China, Indonesia, Belgium and Peru).

Meetings: Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8459 7 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2019/102)		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head UNMIK, Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees ^{a,b}	
S/PV.8541 10 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK (S/2019/461)		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees ^{a,b}	
S/PV.8655 31 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK (S/2019/797)		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

^a Serbia was represented by its First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^b The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Pristina.

21. Items relating to Ukraine

A. Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting, in the form of a briefing,⁴⁰⁴ in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))”. More information on

the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 25 April 2019,⁴⁰⁵ the Council heard briefings under the item by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. Against the backdrop of presidential elections held on 21 April 2019 in Ukraine

⁴⁰⁴ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁴⁰⁵ See [S/PV.8516](#).