

**STATEMENT BY MR. ADAM BUGAJSKI  
DIRECTOR, SECURITY POLICY DEPARTMENT  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

**Annual Security Review Conference**

**Working Session III  
Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures  
Vienna, 20 June 2013**

In the light of a comprehensive EU statement, which I support, allow me to focus on one issue – namely conventional arms control.

For Poland it remains a crucial element of the security architecture in Europe and cannot be perceived as a legacy of the past. On the one hand, thanks to i.a. conventional arms control, dialogue and cooperation has prevailed over confrontation and wall-building, and for example a conflict on a massive scale among European states is today unlikely. On the other hand, however, there are security challenges we have not managed to overcome:

- the threat of use of force remains in the menu of instruments used in international relations,
- we can still witness limited arms races in different parts of our region,
- there are concerns stemming from hazardous military activities as well as misperceptions of intentions of certain military actions.

In addition, new factors need to be taken into account:

- military potential is nowadays defined by capability to act rather than numbers,
- intention to use force equally important as sheer numbers,
- numerical limitations still valuable, but not sufficient.

Against this background, Poland sees the need to overcome the current impasse on conventional arms control and supports all efforts aimed at revitalising, updating and modernising the system. Our ultimate aim remains a modern and effective regime, which would successfully prevent the use of military threat in inter-state relations, promote trust, confidence, transparency and security. Such regime would contribute not only to the prevention of conflicts, but also crises sometimes stemming from different threat perceptions and lack of understanding.

The security challenges of the modern world are mostly asymmetric and of global nature, however, while concentrating our effort on countering them, we should not neglect the instruments, which proved to be effective within our own regional perspective.

There are currently different strands of discussion on conventional arms control and in this context I wish to complement the Ukrainian Chairmanship for its efforts to stimulate the dialogue. In the coming months we should strive to make best use of this new dynamic and work together to pave the way for result-oriented negotiations.