



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ
PRIE EUROPOS SAUGUMO IR BENDRADARBIAVIMO ORGANIZACIJOS**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

17 April 2013

**Address by Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, at the Opening Session of the FSC under the
Chairmanship of Lithuania (17 April 2013)**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset permit me to say how proud we are to take over the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation at this time. While we are fully aware of the great responsibility and challenges that await all of us, we are also conscious of the great potential and opportunities inherent in the OSCE in general and in the FSC in particular.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Liechtenstein for having led us so efficiently and energetically through the first session of this year. Ambassador Kothbauer and her dedicated team provided us with management of an outstandingly high standard, thereby contributing to the building up of trust and mutual understanding amongst the OSCE participating States. We commence our tenure inspired by Liechtenstein's example and we will continue to draw on this valuable experience. Furthermore, we would like to welcome Luxembourg most warmly to the FSC Troika.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we take over the rotating Chairmanship, we remain committed to the implementation of the Tentative FSC Working Programme agreed by Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Luxembourg for the year 2013. Taken as a whole, the Working Programme represents the Lithuanian Chairmanship's understanding of what lies before the FSC this year. In this context we place the highest value on the active commitment and strong support of all delegations.

The Forum for Security Co-operation is a decision-making body that belongs equally to each and every participating State. It can be compared to a joint venture equally owned by 57 stakeholders, the OSCE participating States, who thus possess rights, but also have

responsibilities. It is they who decide in what ways the FSC can be employed best to further our comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security.

In Dublin last December our Ministers decided to launch the Helsinki+40 process as an inclusive effort by all participating States to provide strong and continuous political impetus to advancing work towards a security community and to further strengthening our co-operation in the OSCE. The Ministers stressed the importance of not only implementing and reconfirming our commitments, but also of building on them.

The FSC, as an autonomous decision-making body, has been requested, within its mandate, to contribute to the Helsinki+40 process.

In essence, this has to do with our work: here and now, and in the immediate future. It does not have anything to do with some imaginary “second life” of the FSC or with a “parallel” FSC. Helsinki+40 is therefore also an undertaking with internal significance for the Forum.

The FSC is thus now faced with the question of how we can advance our work and strengthen co-operation. And the FSC will have to give answers.

Dear colleagues, you are therefore kindly invited and encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas on the issue of FSC’s contribution to Helsinki+40. The agenda item “General statements” would appear to provide a good opportunity for an exchange of views in the course of the next three to four months. In addition, in the Indicative Schedule of FSC Plenary meetings, which was brought to your attention last week, we have scheduled certain Security Dialogues that could be helpful. I am also grateful to the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for maintaining the focus of Helsinki+40 when planning this year’s Annual Security Review Conference.

And most importantly: Making gradual but steady progress in the FSC’s normative and project work would obviously be the best possible answer to the question asked by our Ministers. Helsinki+40 could serve as a catalyst in this regard.

This brings me to some more specific aspects of the FSC’s work in the months to come.

The implementation of all agreed Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) remains a priority for us, as does their further development. The Lithuanian Chairmanship will continue facilitating negotiations on Vienna Document Plus proposals and draft decisions for updating and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs. We are particularly pleased that in this field of activity we will be able to continue to avail ourselves of the huge experience of our co-ordinator Dr. Pierre von Arx. Delegations are strongly encouraged to actively use FSC Working Group “A” to present and discuss their Vienna Document Plus proposals.

We expect that this year's Security Dialogues and the Annual Security Review Conference will provide a good opportunity to discuss CSBMs and arms control, including their role in the future security architecture in the OSCE area. At present, under the management of our *chef de file* Ms. Zhanar Kulzhanova, we are at the stage of agreeing on recommended dates of the conference and on modalities of its third working session. Once these matters have been successfully dealt with, I invite all delegations to help to ensure the presentation of a wider range of views, also by making suggestions regarding possible keynote speakers.

The OSCE remains an indispensable contributor to international efforts geared to combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW), and also to reducing and/or preventing their excessive and destabilizing accumulation. The OSCE is also renowned for its valuable work in reducing threats to security and the environment posed by surplus or outdated stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) awaiting destruction. I would now like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all the donors for their generosity, and to our co-ordinator Lieutenant Colonel László Szatmári and the Secretariat for their dedicated and fruitful work.

As regards small arms and light weapons, the priorities identified in the OSCE Plan of Action and the relevant Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision remain valid. At the same time, the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty can provide a new impetus for discussions on this subject. We are pleased that the Informal Group of Friends on SALW has resumed its thoughtful and well-structured work under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Simon Macrory-Tinning, supported by the Secretariat. We look forward to its continued substantive work.

The OSCE has long had a reputation as a pioneer of international activities related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. Is this reputation still justified? How can we advance FSC work and strengthen our co-operation in these particular fields? In the months to come these questions will be addressed in the framework of two FSC Security Dialogues.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security remains a key normative document governing the role of armed forces in democratic societies. Lithuania supports the increased discussion in the FSC of the full implementation and promotion of this instrument. Together with our co-ordinator Lieutenant Colonel Detlef Hempel we look forward to the 2nd Annual Implementation Discussion for which the date 10 July has been suggested. We consider that this year's event will provide a good opportunity to discuss the proposals made by several participating States for strengthening the implementation of the Code of Conduct, to promote best practices, and to exchange experiences with the Partners for Co-operation.

Promoting the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is another priority for Lithuania. The FSC has still much to do in search of proper avenues of efficient assistance in the implementation of this resolution and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security. Two Security Dialogues under our Chairmanship will be devoted to the issue of Women and Peace and Security. Let me thank our co-ordinator Ms.

Bilge Koçyiğit for the strong support she has been giving us and say how much we look forward to our fruitful co-operation in the future.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a grave threat to our security. We must spare no effort to counter this threat by pooling all available means and resources between all the relevant international actors. The FSC community has yet to deliver on the task given to us in Vilnius Ministerial Decision on the proper role of the OSCE in the facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. I invite all of us to work together under the leadership of our co-ordinator Mr. Vasyl Pokotylo, and to consider further enhancing the OSCE's profile in non-proliferation activities in general, and in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in particular. With a view to strengthening collaboration with the United Nations, we envisage holding a Security Dialogue with the Chair of the 1540 Committee as the keynote speaker.

And last but certainly not least, promoting meaningful synergies between national, regional and other multilateral contributions to security and stability has always played a significant part in our various approaches to efficient multilateralism, not least in the framework of the OSCE. We have therefore scheduled a number of Security Dialogues with excellent speakers who have been invited to consider diverse aspects of this broad subject.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Reconfirming and implementing the commitments that we have undertaken remains a highly important priority on our way towards a credible security community. But while these are necessary prerequisites, they are certainly not sufficient in themselves. We must not stop half way or be content with what has long been achieved. Complacency and lack of progress lead to stagnation, which brings with it an unwelcome erosion of trust and co-operation. Persevering in pursuit of real progress, no matter how evolutionary and incremental this progress may seem, will pay off – because this process is able to enhance co-operation and increase mutual understanding and trust.

A positive attitude matters. A forward-looking approach matters. I therefore invite you to dare to make “small but meaningful steps” in all aspects of the FSC's work – in due time this investment will bring good dividends. In our FSC tenure we will endeavour to concentrate on substantive discussions and result-oriented deliberations which hopefully will, in the shorter or longer term, gradually grow into jointly agreed decisions on the way forward.

In concluding I would like to assure you that the Lithuanian Chairmanship will continue to maintain the good tradition of inclusiveness and openness in the FSC's work. We will continue to rely on the (if I may use the basketball terminology) “Dream Team” of highly qualified professionals from Delegations and from the Secretariat. I invite all of us to redouble our efforts to achieve what is feasible, and even more – to gradually transfer into

the realm of the achievable many things that do not seem feasible at the moment. For that we need initiative, active involvement, and co-operation on the part of all 57 participating States – our OSCE community.

Thank you for your attention!